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**Cole et al.**

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(54) **IDENTIFICATION OF VIRULENCE ASSOCIATED REGIONS RD1 AND RD5 LEADING TO IMPROVE VACCINE OF *M. BOVIS* BCG AND *M. MICROTI***

(75) Inventors: **Stewart Cole**, Clamart (CH); **Alexander S. Pym**, London (GB); **Roland Brosch**, Paris (FR); **Priscille Brodin**, Paris (FR); **Laleh Majlessi**, Montigny le Bretonneux (FR); **Caroline Demangel**, Paris (FR); **Claude LeClerc**, Paris (FR)

(73) Assignee: **Institut Pasteur**, Paris (FR)

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

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*C07H 21/02* (2006.01)  
*C07H 21/04* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... **424/248.1**; 424/9.1; 424/9.2; 424/234.1; 536/23.1; 536/23.7

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
USPC ..... 424/9.1, 9.2, 234.1, 248.1; 536/23.1, 536/23.7

See application file for complete search history.

*Primary Examiner* — Rodney P Swartz

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a strain of *M. bovis* BCG or *M. microti*, wherein said strain has integrated part or all of the RD1 region responsible for enhanced immunogenicity of the tubercle bacilli, especially the ESAT-6 and CFP-10 genes. These strains will be referred as the *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strains and are useful as a new improved vaccine for preventing tuberculosis and as a therapeutical product enhancing the stimulation of the immune system for the treatment of bladder cancer.

**48 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets**

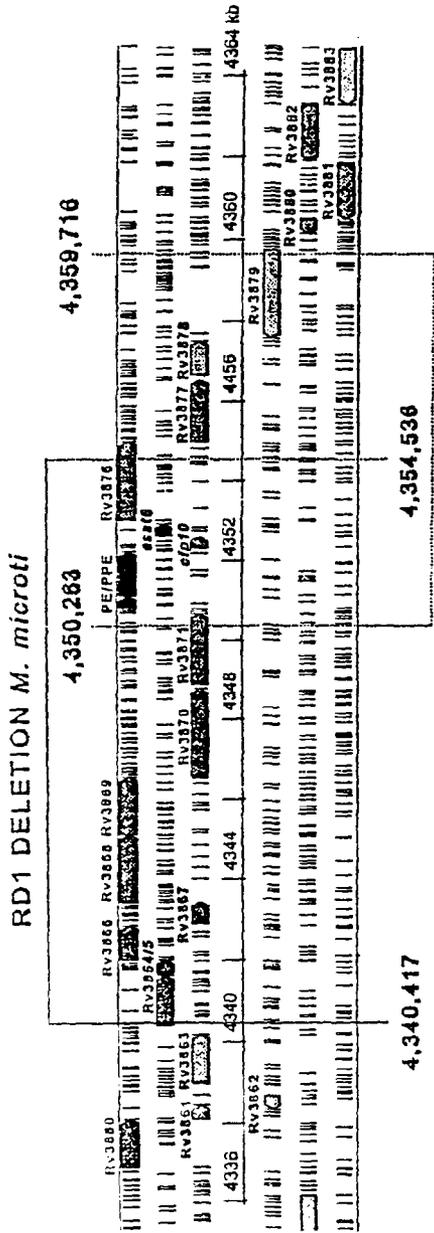


FIGURE 1A

RD1 DELETION BCG

ESAT-6 family conserved core region

Deleted Region	Coordinates (kilo-base)	Putative virulence genes and their function	Integrating clones
RD3	1779-1788	Prophage phiRV1 (RV1573-1586)	RD3-I301
RD4	1696-1708	Extracellular polysaccharide synthesis (RV1511-RV1514)	RD4-I375
RD5	2626-2635	Phospholipase operon (plcA, plcB, plcC)	RD5-1B1
RD7	2208-2220	Adhesin/invasin (mce3 operon)	RD7-1B9
RD9	2330-2332	Cobalamin synthesis (cobL)	RD9-I493

FIGURE 1B

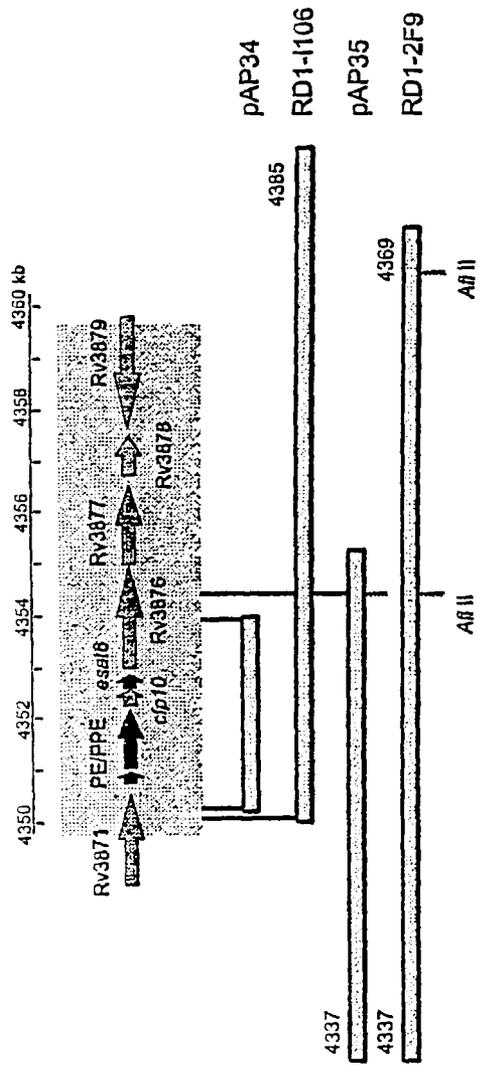


FIGURE 1C



FIGURE 1D

FIGURE 2A

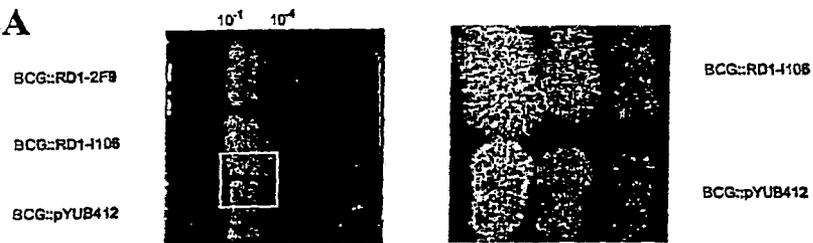


FIGURE 2B

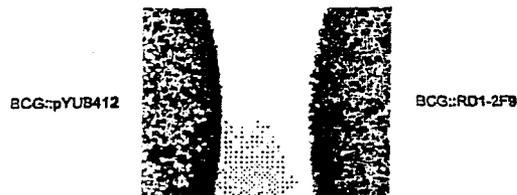
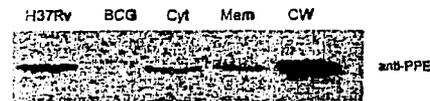
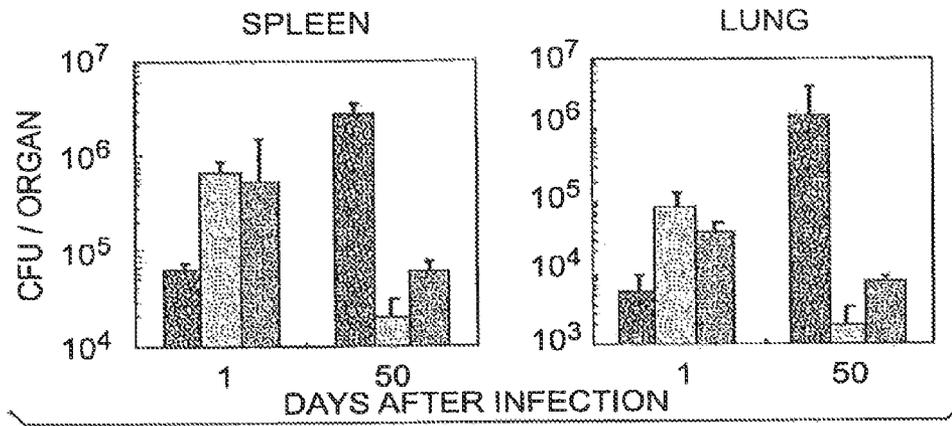


FIGURE 2C

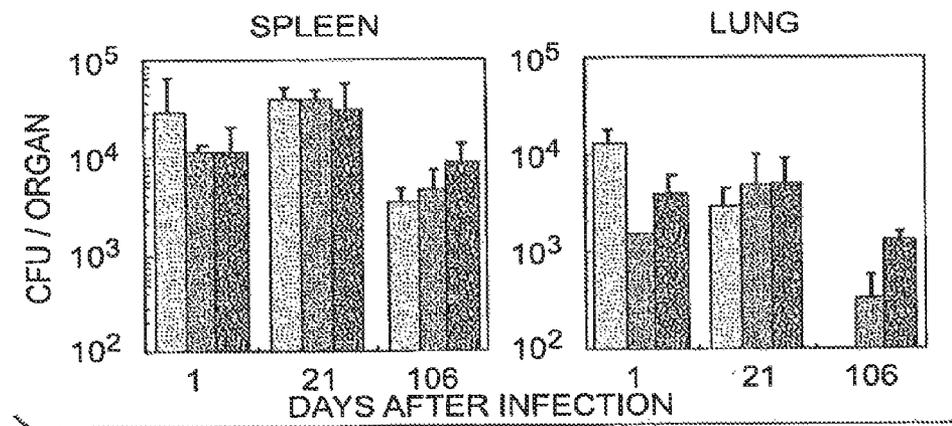


FIGURE 2D

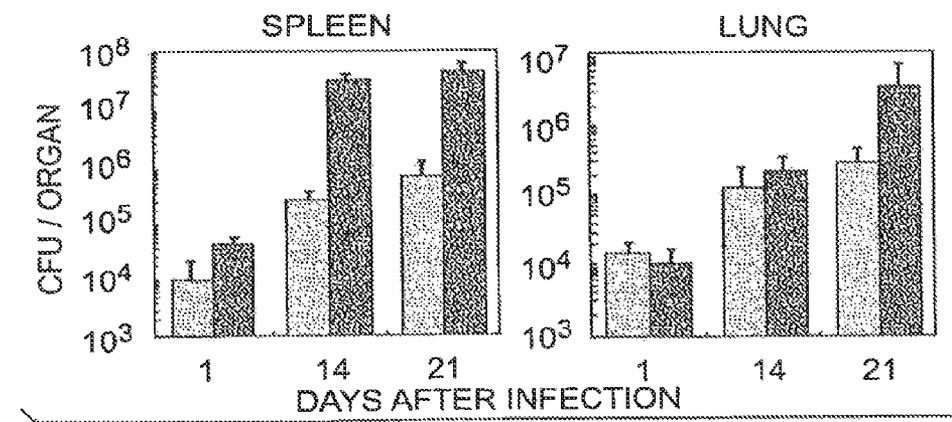




**FIG. 3A**



**FIG. 3B**

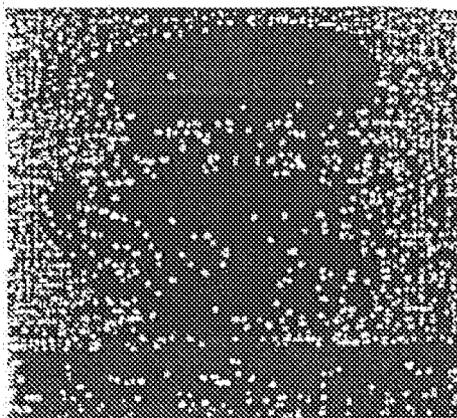


**FIG. 3C**

BCG::RD1-2F9

BCG::pYUB412

BCG::RD3-I301



***FIG. 3D***

FIGURE 4A

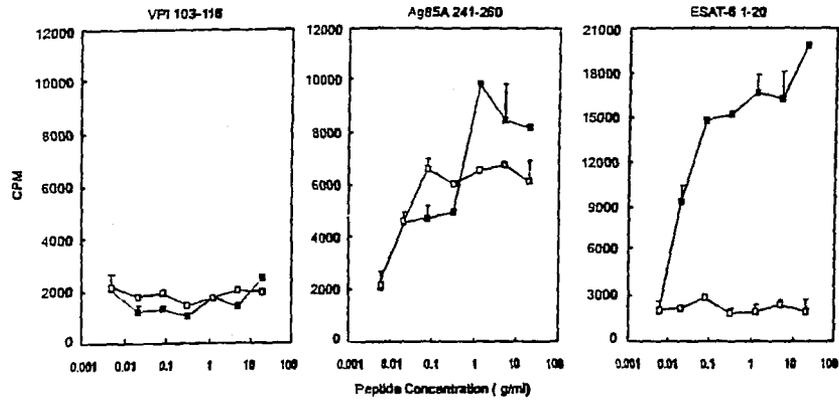


FIGURE 4B

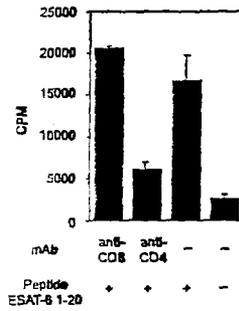


FIGURE 4C

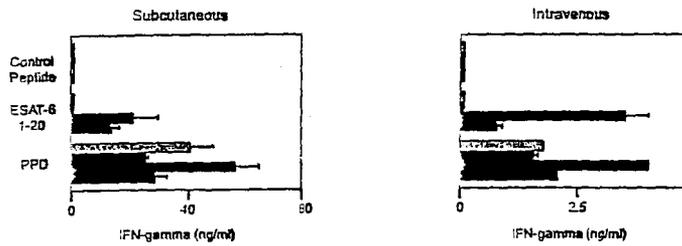
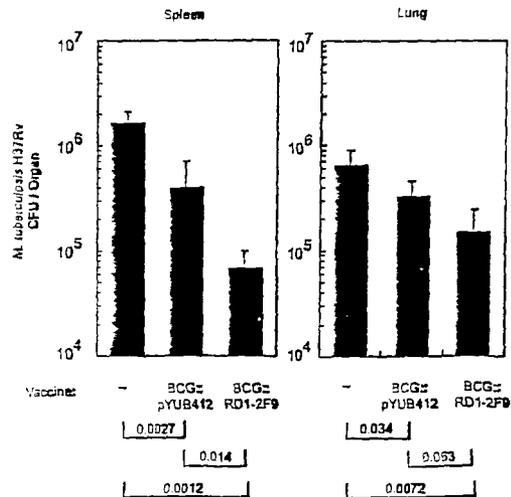
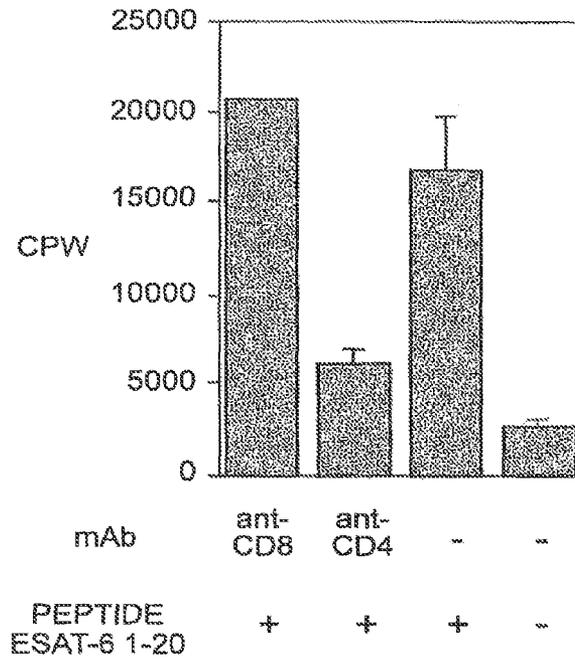
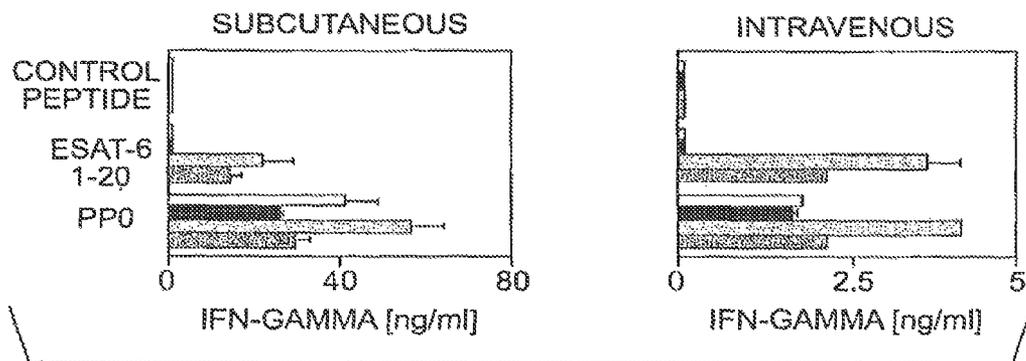


FIGURE 4D





**FIG. 4B**



**FIG. 4C**

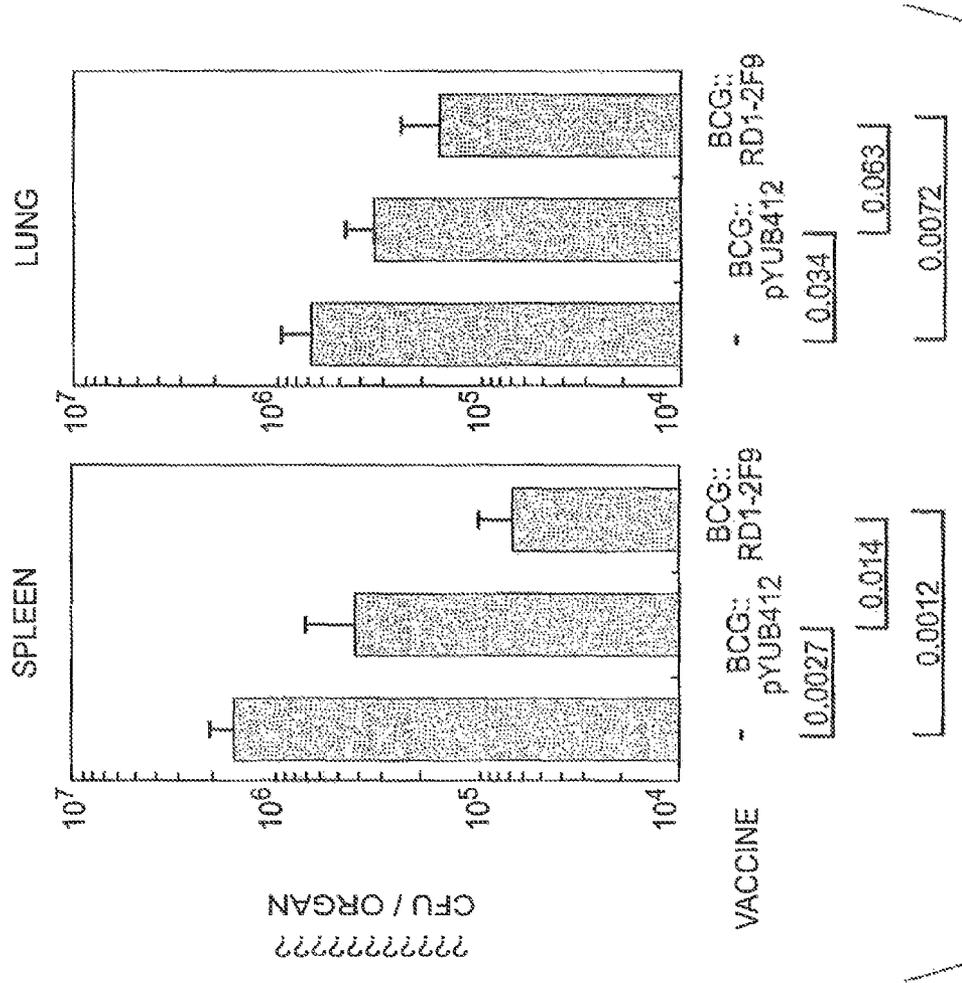


FIG. 4D



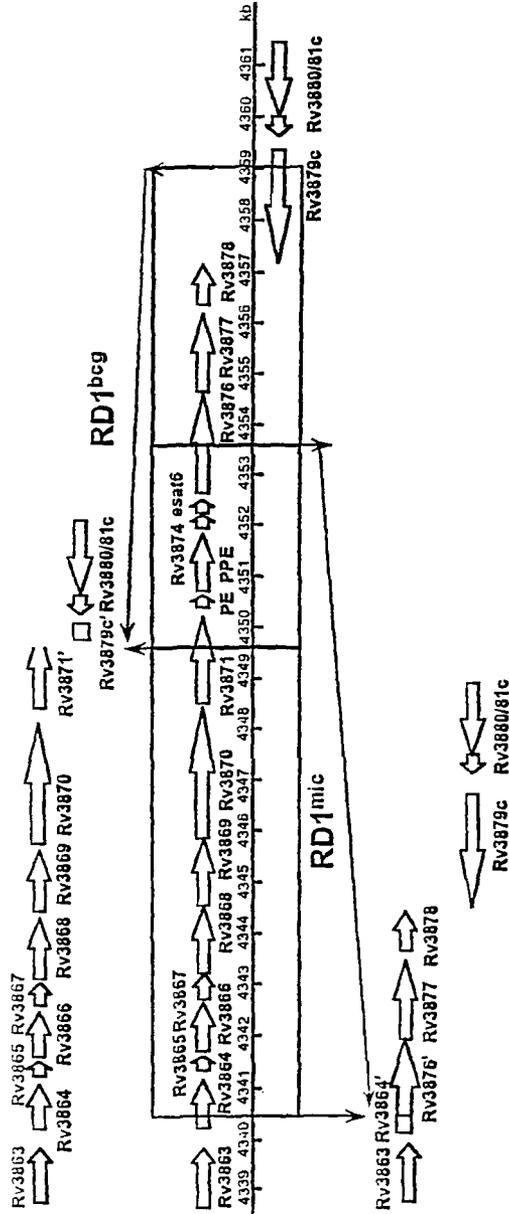


FIGURE 6A

FIGURE 6B

FIGURE 6C

FIGURE 7A

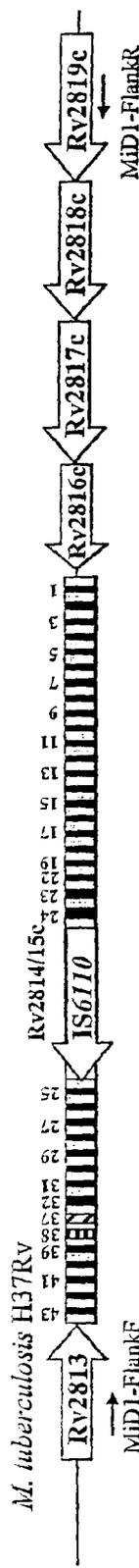


FIGURE 7B

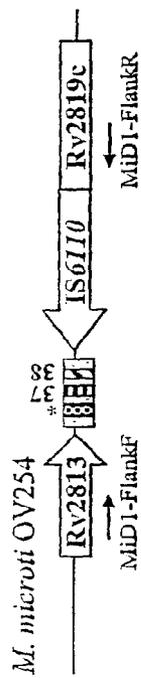


FIGURE 8A

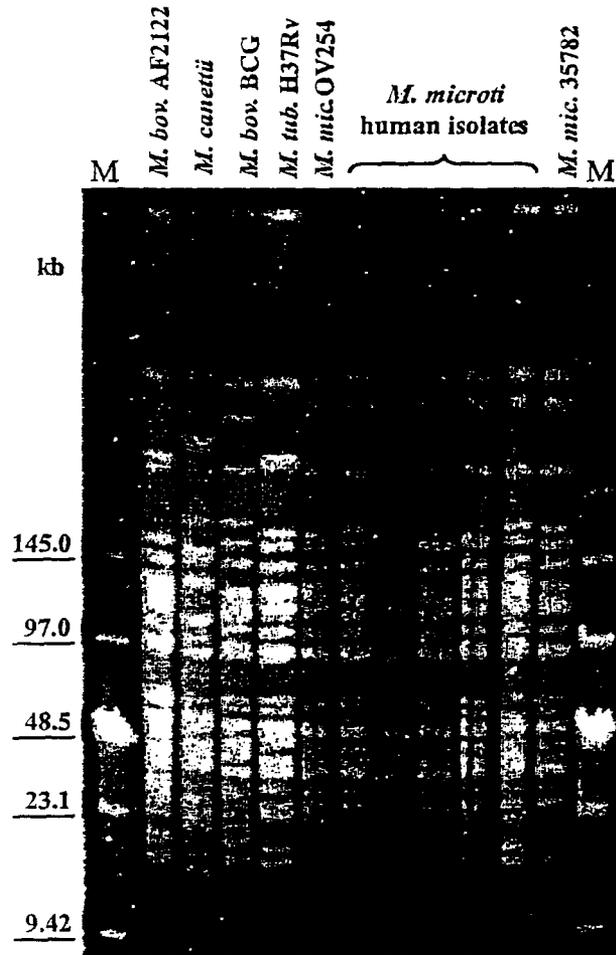


FIGURE 8B

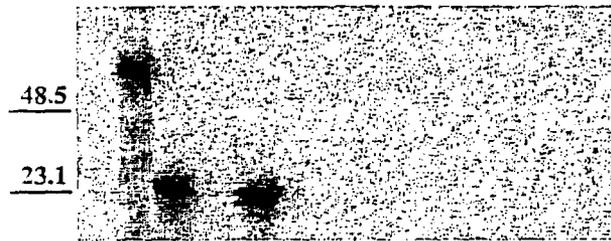


FIGURE 8C

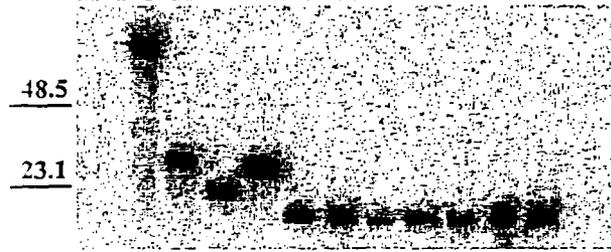


FIGURE 8D



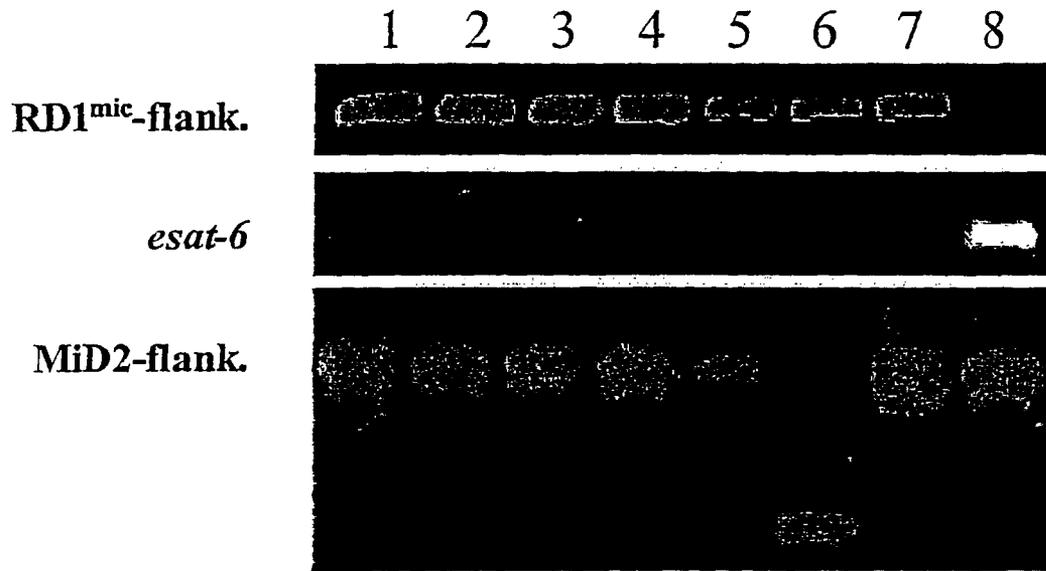


FIGURE 9



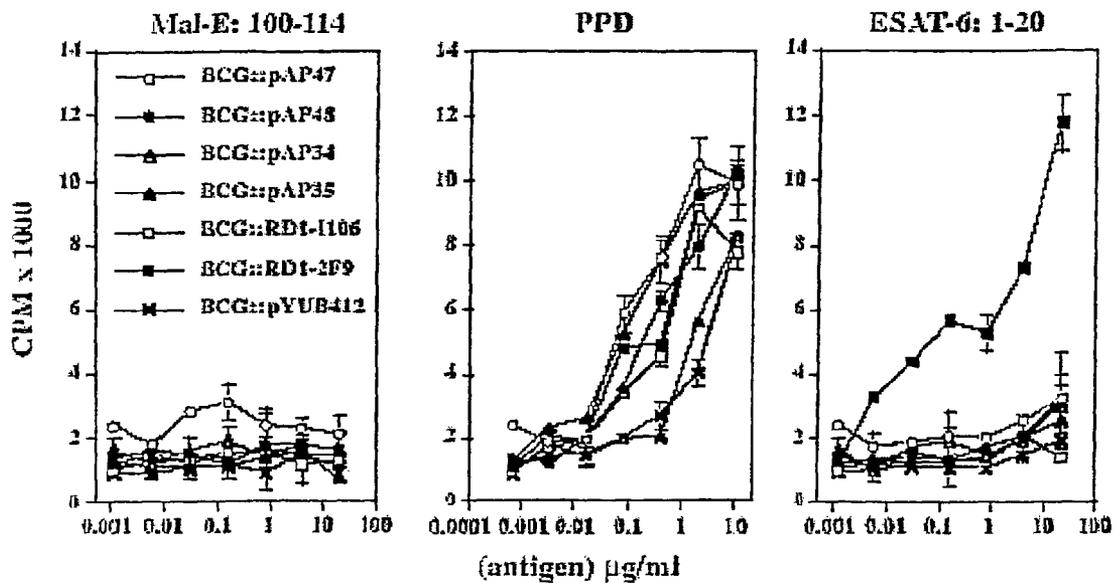


FIGURE 12A

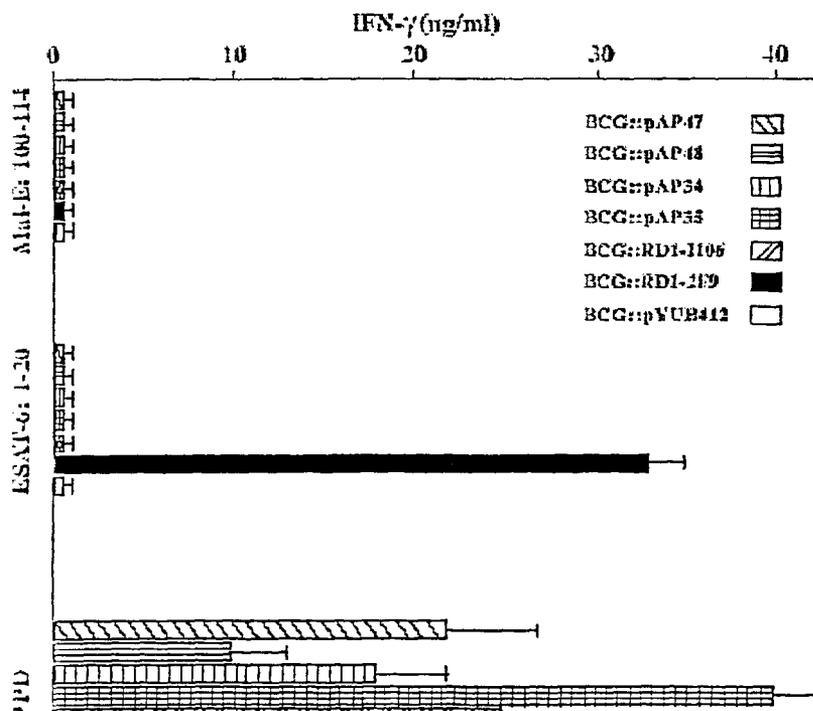


FIGURE 12B

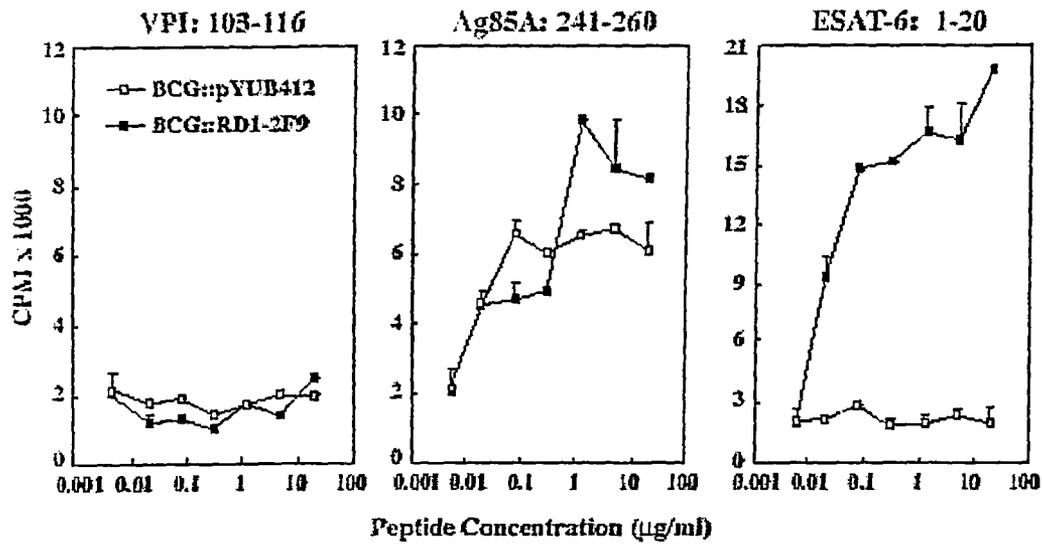


FIGURE 13A

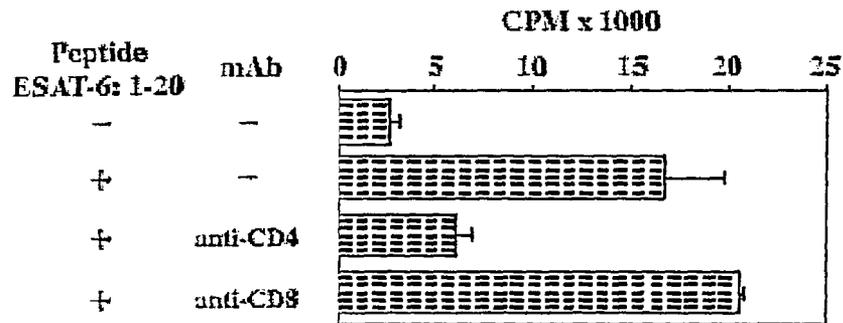


FIGURE 13B

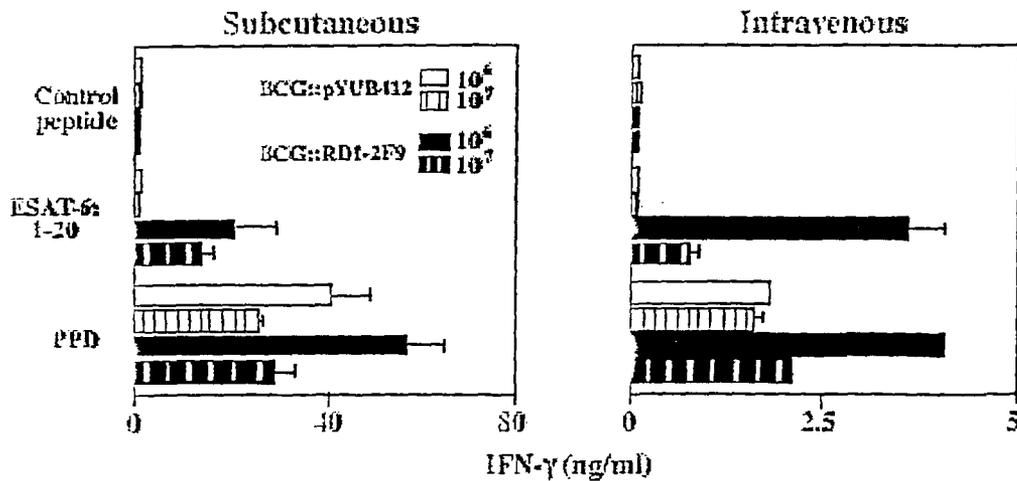


FIGURE 13C

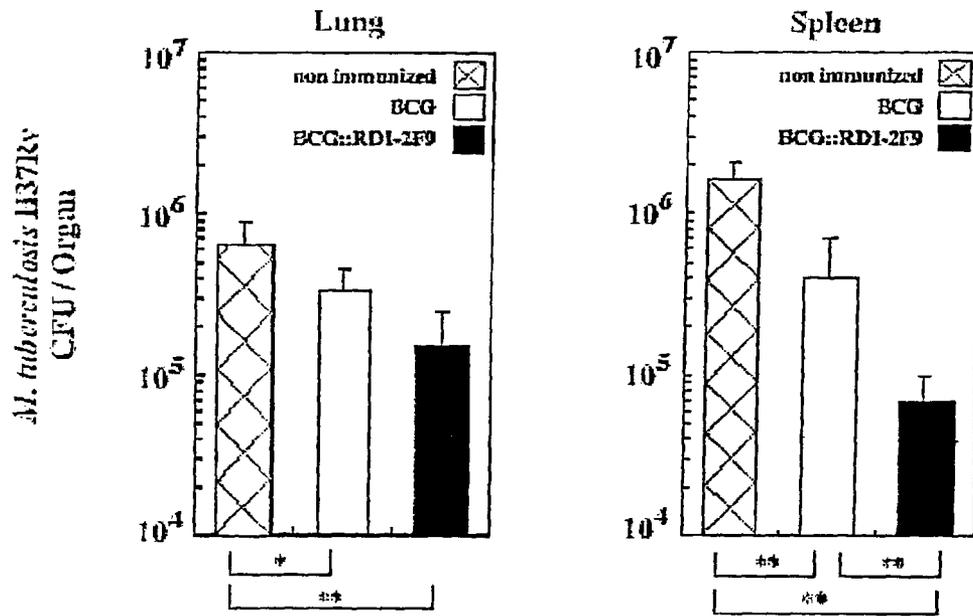


FIGURE 14A

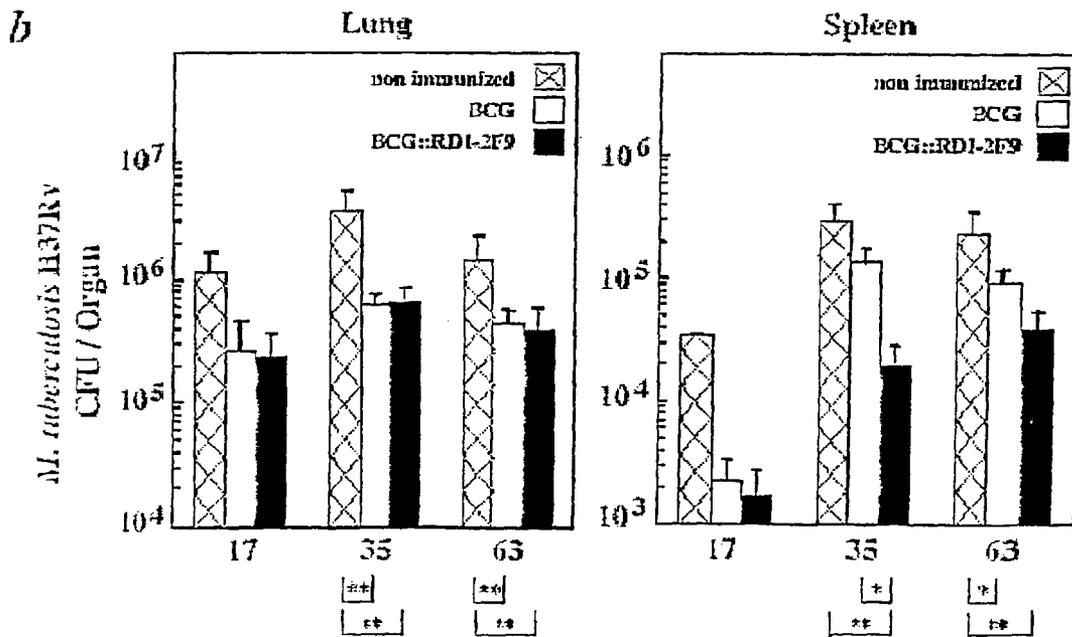


FIGURE 14B

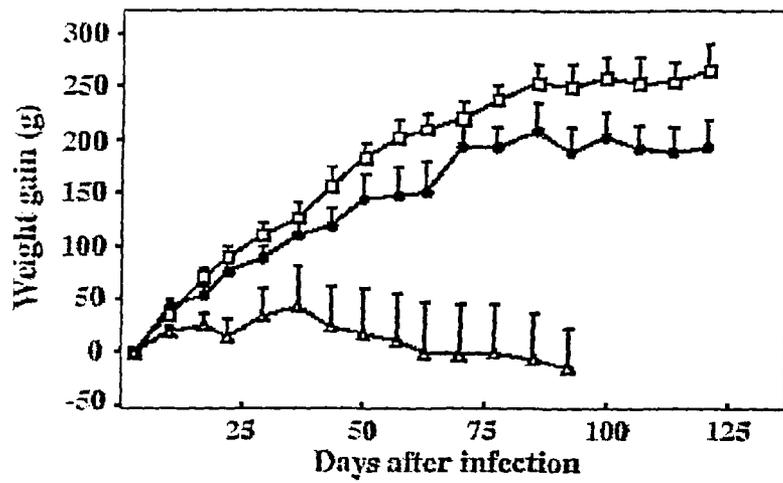


FIGURE 15A

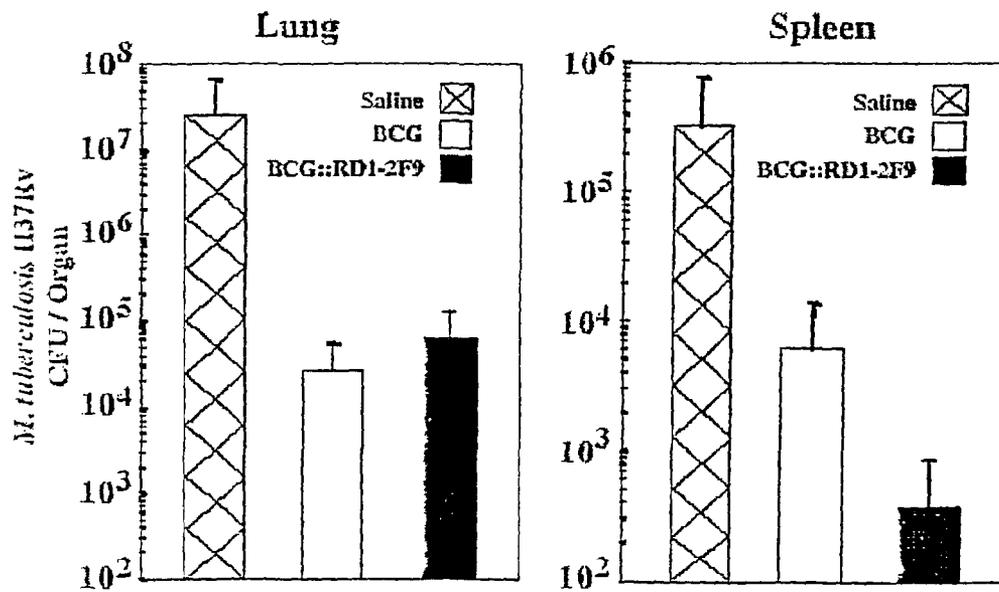


FIGURE 15B

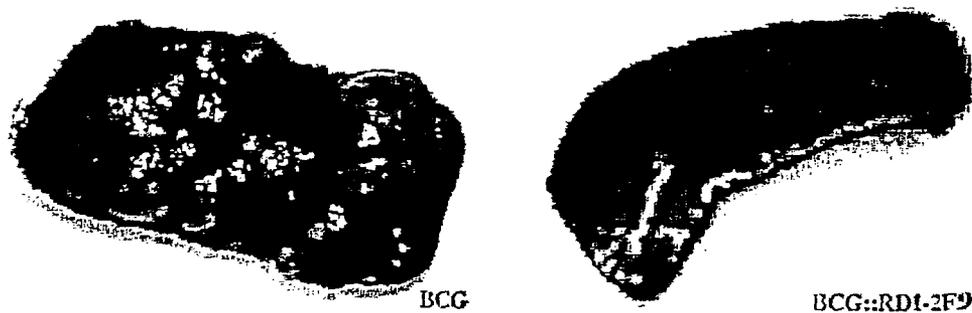


FIGURE 15C

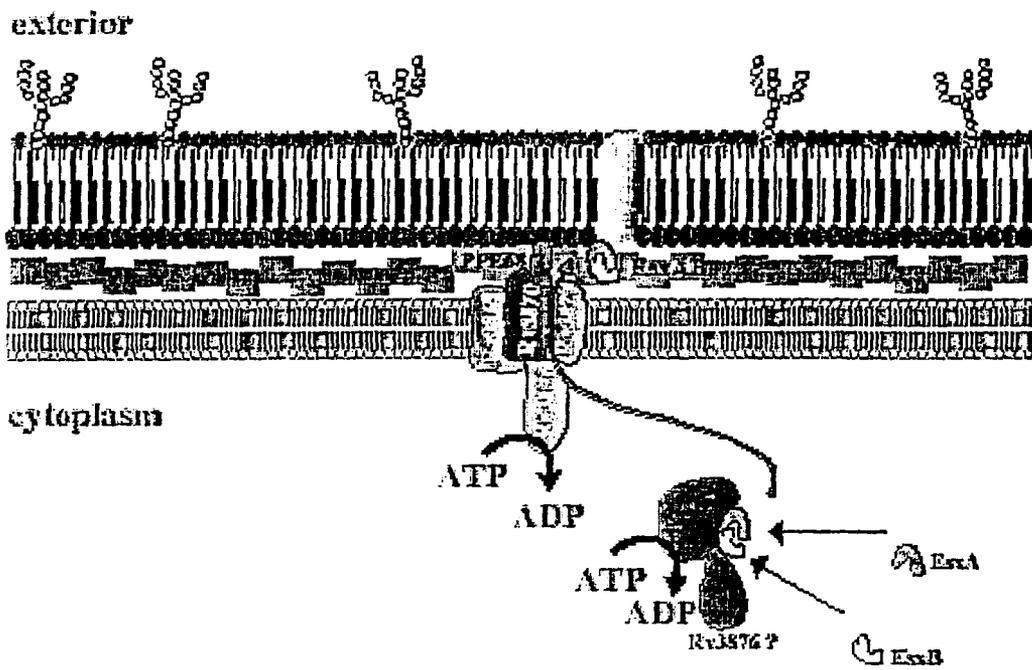


FIGURE 16

**IDENTIFICATION OF VIRULENCE  
ASSOCIATED REGIONS RD1 AND RD5  
LEADING TO IMPROVE VACCINE OF *M.  
BOVIS* BCG AND *M. MICROTI***

This is a division of application Ser. No. 10/510,021, filed Oct. 1, 2004, no U.S. Pat. No. 7,883,712, which is a National Stage of International Application No. PCT/IB03/01789 under 35 U.S.C. §371, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Virulence associated regions have been sought for a long time in *Mycobacterium*. The present invention concerns the identification of 2 genomic regions which are shown to be associated with a virulent phenotype in *Mycobacteria* and particularly in *M. tuberculosis*. It concerns also the fragments of said regions.

One of these two regions known as RD5 is disclosed in Molecular Microbiology (1999), vol. 32, pages 643 to 655 (Gordon S. V. et al.). The other region named RD1-2F9 spans the known region RD1 as disclosed in Molecular Microbiology (1999), vol. 32, pages 643 to 655 (Gordon S. V. et al.). Both of the regions RD1 and RD5 or at least one of them are absent from the vaccine strains of *M. bovis* BCG and in *M. microti*, strains found involved and used as live vaccines in the 1960's.

Other applications which are encompassed by the present invention are related to the use of all or part of the said regions to detect virulent strains of *Mycobacteria* and particularly *M. tuberculosis* in humans and animals. The region RD1-2F9 and RD5 are considered as virulence markers under the present invention.

The recombinant *Mycobacteria* and particularly *M. bovis* BCG after modification of their genome by introduction of all or part of RD1-2F9 region and/or RD5 region in said genome can be used for the immune system of patients affected with a cancer as for example a bladder cancer.

The present invention relates to a strain of *M. bovis* BOG or *M. microti*, wherein said strain has integrated all or part of the region RD1-2F9 responsible for enhanced immunogenicity to the tubercle bacilli, especially the genes encoding the ESAT-6 and CFP-10 antigens. These strains will be referred to as the *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strains and are useful as a new improved vaccine for prevention of tuberculosis infections and for treating superficial bladder cancer.

*Mycobacterium bovis* BCG (bacille Calmette-Guérin) has been used since 1921 to prevent tuberculosis although it is of limited efficacy against adult pulmonary disease in highly endemic areas. *Mycobacterium microti*, another member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, was originally described as the infective agent of a tuberculosis-like disease in voles (*Microtus agrestis*) in the 1930's (Wells, A. Q. 1937. Tuberculosis in wild voles. Lancet 1221 and Wells, A. Q. 1946. The murine type of tubercle bacillus. Medical Research council special report series 259:1-42.). Until recently, *M. microti* strains were thought to be pathogenic only for voles, but not for humans and some were even used as a live-vaccine. In fact, the vole bacillus proved to be safe and effective in preventing clinical tuberculosis in a trial involving roughly 10,000 adolescents in the UK in the 1950's (Hart, P. D. a., and I. Sutherland: 1977. BCG and vole bacillus vaccines in the prevention of tuberculosis in adolescence and early adult life. British Medical Journal 2:293-295). At about the same time, another strain, OV166, was successfully administered to half a million newborns in Prague, former Czechoslovakia, without any serious complications (Sula, L., and I. Radkovsky. 1976. Protective effects of *M. microti* vaccine against tuberculosis. J. Hyg. Epid. Microbiol. Immunol. 20:1-6). *M.*

*microti* vaccination has since been discontinued because it was no more effective than the frequently employed BCG vaccine. As a result, improved vaccines are needed for preventing and treating tuberculosis.

The problem for attempting to ameliorate this live vaccine is that the molecular mechanism of both the attenuation and the immunogenicity of BCG is still poorly understood. Comparative genomic studies of all six members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex have identified more than 140 genes, whose presence is facultative, that may confer differences in phenotype, host range and virulence. Relative to the genome of the paradigm strain, *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (S. T. Cole, et al., *Nature* 393, 537 (1998)), many of these genes occur in chromosomal regions that have been deleted from certain species (RD1-16, RvD1-5), M. A. Behr, et al., *Science* 284, 1520 (1999); R. Brosch, et al., *Infection Immun.* 66, 2221 (1998); S. V. Gordon, et al., *Molec Microbiol* 32, 643 (1999); H. Salmon, et al, *Genome Res* 10, 2044 (2000), G. G. Mahairas et al, *J. Bacteriol.* 178, 1274 (1996) and R. Brosch, et al., *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 99, 3684 (2002).

In connection with the invention and based on their distribution among tubercle bacilli and potential to encode virulence functions, RD1, RD7 and RD9 (FIG. 1A, B) were accorded highest priority for functional genomic analysis using "knock-ins" of *M. bovis* BCG to assess their potential contribution to the attenuation process. Clones spanning these RD regions were selected from an ordered *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv library of integrating shuttle cosmids T. Cole, et al, *Nature* 393, 537 (1998) and W. R. Bange, et al, *Tuber. Lung Dis.* 79, 171 (1999)), and individually electroporated into BCG Pasteur, where they inserted stably into the attB site (M. H. Lee, et al, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88, 3111 (1991)).

We have uncovered that only reintroduction of all or part of RD1-2F9 led to profound phenotypic alteration. Strikingly, the BCG::RD1 "knock-in" grew more vigorously than BCG controls in immuno-deficient mice, inducing extensive splenomegaly and granuloma formation.

RD1 is restricted to the avirulent strains *M. bovis* BCG and *M. microti*. Although the endpoints are not identical, the deletions have removed from both vaccine strains a cluster of six genes (Rv3871-Rv3876) that are part of the ESAT-6 locus (FIG. 1A (S. T. Cole, et al., *Nature* 393, 537 (1998) and F. Tekaia, et al., *Tubercle Lung Disease* 79, 329 (1999)).

Among the missing products are members of the mycobacterial PE (Rv3872), PPE (Rv3873), and ESAT-6 (Rv3874, Rv3875) protein families. Despite lacking obvious secretion signals, ESAT-6 (Rv3875) and the related protein CFP-10 (Rv3874), are abundant components of short term culture filtrate, acting as immunodominant T-cell antigens that induce potent Th1 responses (F. Tekaia, et al., *Tubercle Lung Disease* 79, 329 (1999); A. L. Sorensen, et al, *infect Immun.* 63, 1710 (1995) and R. Colangelli, et al., *Infect. Immun.* 68, 990 (2000)).

In summary, we have discovered that the restoration of RD1-2F9 to *M. bovis* BCG leads to increased persistence in immunocompetent mice. The *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 strain includes RD1-specific immune responses of the Th1-type, has enhanced immunogenicity and confers better protection than *M. bovis* BCG alone in animal models of tuberculosis. The *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 vaccine is significantly more virulent than *M. bovis* BCG in immunodeficient mice but considerably less virulent than *M. tuberculosis*.

In addition, we show that *M. microti* lacks a different but overlapping part of the RD1 region (RD1<sup>mic</sup>) to *M. bovis* BCG and our results indicate that reintroduction of RD1-2F9 confers increased virulence of BCG::RD1 in immunodeficient

mice. The rare strains of *M. microti* that are associated with human disease contain a region referred to as RD5<sup>mic</sup> whereas those from voles do not.

*M. bovis* BCG vaccine could be improved by reintroducing other genes encoding ESAT-6 family members that have been lost, notably, those found in the RD8 and RD5 loci of *M. tuberculosis*. These regions also code for additional T-cell antigens.

*M. bovis* BCG::RD1 could be improved by reintroducing the RD8 and RD5 loci of *M. tuberculosis*.

*M. bovis* BCG vaccine could be improved by reintroducing and overexpressing the genes contained in the RD1, RD5 and RD8 regions.

Accordingly, these new strains, showing greater persistence and enhanced immunogenicity, represent an improved vaccine for preventing tuberculosis and treating bladder cancer.

In addition, the greater persistence of these recombinant strains is an advantage for the presentation of other antigens, for instance for HIV in humans and in order to induce protection immune responses. Those improved strains may also be of use in veterinary medicine, for instance in preventing bovine tuberculosis.

#### DESCRIPTION

Therefore, the present invention is aimed at a strain of *M. bovis* BCG or *M. microti*, wherein said strain has integrated all or part of the RD1-2F9 region as shown in SEQ ID No 1 responsible for enhanced immunogenicity to the tubercle bacilli. These strains will be referred to as the *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strains.

In connection with the invention, "part or all of the RD1-2F9 region" means that the strain has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least one, two, three, four, five, or more gene(s) selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19), Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28). The expression "a portion of DNA" means also a nucleotide sequence or a nucleic acid or a polynucleotide. The expression "gene" is referred herein as the coding sequence in frame with its natural promoter as well as the coding sequence which has been isolated and framed with an exogenous promoter, for example a promoter capable of directing high level of expression of said coding sequence.

In a specific aspect, the invention relates to a strain of *M. bovis* BCG or *M. microti* wherein said strain has integrated at least one, two, three or more gene(s) selected from Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20).

In another specific aspect, the invention relates to a strain of *M. bovis* BCG or *M. microti* herein said strain has integrated at least one, two, three or more gene(s) selected from Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19).

Preferably, a strain according to the invention is one which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least four genes selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18; ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19), Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28), provided that it comprises Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10) and/or Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6).

Strains which have integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*) comprising at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19) or at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20) or at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20) are of particular interest.

The above strains according to the invention may further comprise Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE) and/or Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE). In addition, it may further comprise at least one, two, three or four gene(s) selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28).

The invention encompasses strains which have integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) or Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10) or both Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10).

These genes can be mutated (deletion, insertion or base modification) so as to maintain the improved immunogenicity while decreasing the virulence of the strains. Using routine procedure, the man skilled in the art can select the *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strains, in which a mutated gene has been integrated, showing improved immunogenicity and lower virulence.

We have shown here that introduction of the RD1-2F9 region makes the vaccine strains induce a more effective immune response against a challenge with *M. tuberculosis*. However, this first generation of constructs can be followed

by other, more fine-tuned generations of constructs as the complemented BCG::RD1 vaccine strain also showed a more virulent phenotype in severely immune-compromised (SCID) mice. Therefore, the BCG::RD1 constructs may be modified so as to be applicable as vaccine strains while being safe for immune-compromised individuals. The term “construct” means an engineered gene unit, usually involving a gene of interest that has been fused to a promoter.

In this perspective, the man skilled in the art can adapt the BCG::RD1 strain by the conception of BCG vaccine strains that only early parts of the genes coding for ESAT-6 or CFP-10 in a mycobacterial expression vector (for example pSM81) under the control of a promoter, more particularly an hsp60 promoter. For example, at least one portion of the *esat-6* gene that codes for immunogenic 20-mer peptides of ESAT-6 active as T-cell epitopes (Mustafa A S, Oftung F, Amoudy H A, Madi N M, Abal A T, Shaban F, Rosen Krands I, & Andersen P. (2000) Multiple epitopes from the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* ESAT-6 antigen are recognized by antigen-specific human T cell lines. Clin Infect Dis. 30 Suppl 3:S201-5, peptides P1 to P8 are incorporated herein in the description) could be cloned into this vector and electroporated into BCG, resulting in a BCG strain that produces these epitopes.

Alternatively, the ESAT-6 and CFP-10 encoding genes (for example on plasmid RD1-AP34 and or RD1-2F9) could be altered by directed mutagenesis (using for example QuikChange Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit from Stratagen) in a way that most of the immunogenic peptides of ESAT-6 remain intact, but the biological functionality of ESAT-6 is lost.

This approach could result in a more protective BCG vaccine without increasing the virulence of the recombinant BCG strain.

Therefore, the invention is also aimed at a method for preparing and selecting *M. bovis* BCG or *M. microti* recom-

binant, strains comprising a step consisting of modifying the *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strains as defined above by insertion, deletion or mutation in the integrated RD1 region, more particularly in the *esat-6* or CFP-10 gene, said method leading to strains that are less virulent for immunodepressed individuals. Together, these methods would allow to explain what causes the effect that we see with our BCG::RD1 strain (the presence of additional T-cell epitopes from ESAT-6 and CFP10 resulting in increased immunogenicity) or whether the effect is caused by better fitness of the recombinant BCG::RD1 clones resulting in longer exposure time of the immune system to the vaccine—or—by a combinatorial effect of both factors.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention is aimed at the *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 strains, which have integrated a cosmid herein referred to as the RD1-2F9 and RD1-AP34 contained in the *E. coli* strains deposited on Apr. 2, 2002 at the CNCM (Institut Pasteur, 25, rue du Docteur Roux, 75724 Paris cedex 15, France) under the accession number I-2831 and I-2832 respectively. The RD1-2F9 is a cosmid comprising the portion of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv genome previously named RD1-2F9 that spans the RD1 region and contains a gene conferring resistance to Kanamycin. The RD1-AP34 is a cosmid comprising a portion of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv genome containing two genes coding for ESAT-6 and CFP-10 as well as a gene conferring resistance to Kanamycin.

The cosmid RD1-AP34 contains a 3909 bp fragment of the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genome from region 4350459 bp to 4354367 bp that has been cloned into an integrating vector pKint in order to be integrated in the genome of *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG and *Mycobacterium microti* strains (SEQ II) No 3). The Accession No. of the segment 160 of the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genome that contains this region is AL022120.

SEQ ID No 3:

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1 - gaattcccat ccagtgagtt caaggtcaag cggcgccccc ctggccagge atttctcgtc
61 - tcgccagacg gcaagaggt catccaggcc cctacatcg agcctccaga agaagtgttc
121 - gcagcaccoc caagcgcccg ttaagattat ttcattgccg gtgtagcagg acccgagctc
181 - agcccggtaa tcagagttegg gcaatgcta ccatcgggtt tgtttccggc tataaccgaa
241 - cggtttgtgt acgggataca aatacaggga ggaagaagt aggcaaatgg aaaaaatgtc
301 - acatgatccg atcgcgtccg acattggcac gcaagtgagc gacaacgctc tgcaaggcgt
361 - gacggccggc tcgacggcgc tgacgtcgtt gaccgggctg gttcccggcg gggccgatga
421 - ggtctccgcc caagcggcga cggcgttcac atcggagggc atccaattgc tggcttccaa
481 - tgcacgggcc caagaccagc tccaccgtgc gggcgaagcg gtccaggacg tcgcccgcac
541 - ctattcggaa atcgacgacg gcgccggcgg cgtcttcgoc gaataggccc ccaacacatc
601 - ggagggagtg atcaccatgc tqtggcacgc aatgccaccg gaqctaaata ccgcacggct
661 - gatggccggc qcgggtcccg ctccaatgct tgcggcggcc qcgggatggc agacgcttcc
721 - ggcggctctg gacgctcagg ccgtcgagtt gaccgcgcgc ctgaactctc taggagaagc
781 - ctggactgga ggtggcagcg acaaggcgtc tgcggctgca acgcccgatgg tggctcggct
841 - acaaacccgcg tcaaacacagq ccaagaccgc tgcgatgcaq qcgcagccgc aaqcccgccg
901 - atacaccag gccatggcca cgaacccgct gctgcccggag atcggcccca accacatcac
961 - ccaggccgctc cttacggcca ccaacttctt cggtatcaac acgatcccca tcgcggtgac

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1021 - cgagatggat tatttcatcc gtatgtgaa ccaggcagcc ctggcaatgg aggtctacca  
 1081 - ggccgagacc gcggttaaca cgtttttcga gaagctcag ccgatggcgt cgatccttga  
 1141 - tcccggcgcg agccagagca cgaacgaacc gatcttcgga atgccctccc ctggcagctc  
 1201 - aacaccggtt ggcagattgc cgcgcggcgc taccagacc ctccgccaac tgggtgagat  
 1261 - gagcggcccg atgcagcagc tgaccagcc gctgcagcag gtgacgtcgt tgttcagcca  
 1321 - ggtgggcggc accgcccggc gcaaccagc cgaacgagaa gccgcgcaga tgggctgct  
 1381 - cgccaccagt ccgctgtcga accatccgct ggctgggtgga tcaggcccca gcgcggcgcc  
 1441 - gggctcctc cgcgcggagt cgttaacctg cgcaggtggg tcgttgacc gcacgccgct  
 1501 - gatgtctcag ctgatcgaaa agccgggtgc cccctcggtg atgccggcgg ctgctgcggg  
 1561 - atcgtcggcg acgggtggcg ccgctccggt gggtcgqqa gcgatggcc agggtcgca  
 1621 - atccggggc tccaccagc cgggtctggt cgcgcggca ccgctcggc aggagcgtga  
 1681 - agaagacgac gaggacgact gggacgaaga ggaacgactg tgagctccc taatgacaac  
 1741 - agacttccc gccaccggg ccggaagact tgccaacatt ttggcgagga aggtaagag  
 1801 - agaaagtgt ccagcatgga **agagatgaag accgatgccc ctacctcgc gcaggaggca**  
 1861 - **ggtaatctc agcggatctc cggcgacctg aaaaccaga tcgaccagt ggagtcagc**  
 1921 - **gcaggttcgt tgcagggcca gtggcgggc gcggcggga cggcccca ggccgggtg**  
 1981 - **gtgctctcc aagaagcag caataagcag aagcaggaa tcgacgagat ctgcagcaat**  
 2041 - **attcgtcagg ccggctcca atactcagg gccgacagg agcagcagca ggctctcc**  
 2101 - **tcgcaaatg gettctgacc** cgctaatacg aaaagaaacg gagcaaaaac atgacagagc  
 2161 - agcagtgaa tttcgcgggt atcagggccg cggcaagcgc aatccagga aatgtcacgt  
 2221 - ccattcattc cctcctgac gaggqgaagc agtcctgac caagctcga cccgctggg  
 2281 - gcccgaagcg ttcggaagcg taccaggtg tccagcaaaa atggagcgc accgctaccg  
 2341 - agctgaacaa cgcctcagc aacctggcg ggaacgatcag cgaagccggt caggcaatg  
 2401 - cttcgaccga aggcaacgct actgggatgt tcgcatagg caacgcggag ttctgctaga  
 2461 - atagcgaac accggatcgg cggagttcga ccttcctcgt gtctcgcct ttctctggt  
 2521 - tatacgttg agcgcactct gagaggtgt catggcggc gactacgaca agctctccg  
 2581 - gccgcagca ggtatggaag ctccggcga tatggcagc cagccgttct tcgacccag  
 2641 - tgtctggtt ccgcccggc ccgcatcggc aaacctacc agcccaacg gccagactcc  
 2701 - gcccccgacg tccagcagc tgtcggagcg gttcgtgctg gccccgcgc gccaccccc  
 2761 - acccccacct ccgctcgc caactccgat gccgatcgc gcaggagagc cgcctcgc  
 2821 - ggaaccggc gcactaaac caccacacc cccatgccc atcgcggac ccgaaccggc  
 2881 - cccaccaca caccacac ccccatgcc catcgcgga cccgaaccg cccaccaca  
 2941 - accaccaca cctccgatgc ccatcggcg acctgcacc acccaaccg aatcccagt  
 3001 - ggcggcccc agaccaccga caccacaaac gccaacggga gcggcgcagc aaccggaatc  
 3061 - accggcggc caagctacct cgcacgggc acatcaacc cggcgcacc caccagcacc  
 3121 - gccctgggca aagatgcaa tcggcgaacc cccgcccgt ccgtccagc cgtctgctc  
 3181 - cccggccgaa ccaccagcc ggctgcccc ccaactcct cgacgtcgc gccggggtca  
 3241 - ccgctatcgc acagacacc aacgaaact cgggaaggta gcaactggtc catccatcca  
 3301 - ggcggggctg cgggcagagg aagcatccg cgcgcagctc gccccggaa cggagccctc  
 3361 - gccagcggc ttgggccaac cgagatcgt tctggctcc cccaccgcc ccgcccagc  
 3421 - agaacctccc cccagcccct cggcgcacc caactccggt cggcgtgccc agcagcgcgt

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3481 - ccaccccgat ttagccgccc aacatgccgc ggcgcaacct gattcaatta cgcccgcaac  
 3541 - cactggcggc cgtcgccgca agcgtgcagc gccggatctc gacgcgacac agaaatcctt  
 3601 - aaggccggcg gccaaagggc cgaaggtgaa gaaggtgaag cccagaaaac cgaaggccac  
 3661 - gaagccgccc aaagtgggtg cgcagcgcgg ctggcgacat tgggtgcatg cgttgacgcg  
 3721 - aatcaacctg ggctgtcac ccgacgagaa gtacgagctg gacctgcacg ctcgagtccg  
 3781 - ccgcaatccc cgcgggtcgt atcagatcgc cgtcgtcggc ctcaaagggtg gggctggcaa  
 3841 - aaccacgctg acagcagcgt tggggtcgac gttggctcag gtgcccggccg accggatcct  
 3901 - ggctctaga

pos. 0001-0006 EcoRI-restriction site

pos. 0286-0583 Rv3872 coding for a PE-Protein (SEQ II) No 15)

pos. 0616-1720 Rv3873 coding for a PPE-Protein (SEQ ID No 16)

pos. 1816-2115 Rv3874 coding for Culture Filtrat protein 10 kD (CFP10) (SEQ ID No 17)

<sup>15</sup> pos. 2151-2435 Rv3875 coding for Early Secreted Antigen Target 6 kD (ESAT6) (SEQ ID No 18)

pos. 3903-3609 XbaI-restriction site

pos. 1816-2435 CFP-10 gene+esat-6 gene (SEQ ID No 29).

<sup>20</sup> These sequences can be completed with the Rv3861 to Rv3871, and Rv3876 to Rv3885 as referred in Table 1 below.

Gene Name	Gene length	Protein length	Gene type	Accession number in NCBI Bank NC = gene NP = protein	Loc (kb) in <i>M. tuberculosis</i> H37Rv	Coordinates in <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> H37Rv	Molecular mass of protein (Dalton)	Description
Rv3861	324	108	CDS		4337.95	4337946 ... 4338269	11643.42	hypothetical protein
Rv3862 c-whiB6	348	116	CDS		4338.52	compl 4338174 ... 4338521	12792.38	possible transcriptional regulatory protein whiB-like WhiB6
Rv3863	1176	392	CDS		4338.85	4338849 ... 4340024	41087.44	hypothetical alanine rich protein
Rv3864	1206	402	CDS		4340.27	4340270 ... 4341475	42068.66	conserved hypothetical protein
Rv3865	309	103	CDS		4341.57	4341566 ... 4341874	10618.01	conserved hypothetical protein
Rv3866	849	283	CDS		4341.88	4341880 ... 4342728	30064.04	conserved hypothetical protein
Rv3867	549	183	CDS	NC_000962 NP_218384	4342.77	4342767 ... 4343318	19945.52	conserved protein
Rv3868	1719	573	CDS	NC_000962 NP_218385	4343.3	4343311 ... 4345032	62425.40	conserved protein
Rv3869	1440	480	CDS	NC_000962 NP_218386	4345.04	4345036 ... 4346478	51092.58	possible conserved membrane protein
Rv3870	2241	747	CDS	NC_000962 NP_218387	4346.48	4346478 ... 4348721	80912.76	possible conserved membrane protein
Rv3871	1773	591	CDS	NC_000962 NP_218388	4348.83	4348824 ... 4350599	64560.65	conserved protein
Rv3876	1998	666	CDS	NC_000962 NP_218393	4353.01	4353007 ... 4355007	70644.92	conserved proline and alanine rich protein
Rv3877	1533	511	CDS	NC_000962 NP_218394	4355.01	4355004 ... 4356539	53981.12	probable conserved transmembrane protein
Rv3878	840	280	CDS	NC_000962	4356.69	4356693 ... 4357532	27395.23	conserved hypothetical alanine rich protein

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Gene Name	Gene length	Protein length	Gene type	Accession number in NCBI Bank NC = gene NP = protein	Loc (kb) in <i>M. tuberculosis</i> H37Rv	Coordinates in <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> H37Rv	Molecular mass of protein (Dalton)	Description
Rv3879c	2187	729	CDS	NC_000962	4359.78	compl. 4357596 . . . 4359782	74492.13	hypothetical alanine and proline rich protein
Rv3880c	345	115	CDS	NC_000962	4360.55	compl. 4360202 . . . 4360546	12167.51	conserved hypothetical protein
Rv3881c	1380	460	CDS	NC_000962	4361.92	compl. 4360546 . . . 4361925	47593.62	conserved hypothetical alanine and glycine rich protein
Rv3882c	1386	462	CDS	NC_000962	4363.42	compl. 4362035 . . . 4363420	50396.58	possible conserved membrane protein
Rv3883c	1338	446	CDS	NC_000962	4364.76	compl. 4363420 . . . 4364757	45085.89	possible secreted protease
Rv3884c	1857	619	CDS	NC_000962	4366.84	compl. 4364982 . . . 4366838	68040.97	probable CBXX/CFQX family protein
Rv3885c	1611	537	CDS	NC_000962	4368.52	compl. 4366911 . . . 4368521	57637.95	possible conserved membrane protein

The sequence of the fragment RD1-2F9 (~32 kb) covers the region of the *M. tuberculosis* genome AL123456 from ca 4337 kb to ca. 4369 kb, and also contains the sequence described in SEQ ID No 1. Therefore, the invention also embraces *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 strain and *M. microti*::RD1 strain which have integrated the sequence as shown in SEQ ID No 1.

The above described strains fulfill the aim of the invention which is to provide an improved tuberculosis vaccine or *M. bovis* BCG-based prophylactic or therapeutic agent, or a recombinant *M. microti* derivative for these purposes.

The above described *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 strains are better tuberculosis vaccines than *M. bovis* BCG. These strains can also be improved by reintroducing other genes found in the RD8 and RD5 loci of *M. tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*). These regions code for additional T-cell antigens.

As indicated, overexpressing the genes contained in the RD1, RD5 and RD8 regions by means of exogenous promoters is encompassed by the invention. The same applies regarding *M. microti*::RD1 strains. *M. microti* strains could also be improved by reintroducing the RD8 locus of *M. tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*).

In a second embodiment, the invention is directed to a cosmid or a plasmid, more commonly named vectors, comprising all or part of the RD1-2F9 region originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), said region comprising at least one, two, three or more gene(s) selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17,

30 CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19), Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28). The term "vector" refers to a DNA molecule originating from a virus a bacteria, or the cell of a higher organism into which another DNA fragment of appropriate size can be integrated without loss of the vectors Capacity for self-replication; a vector introduces foreign DNA into host cells, where it can be reproduced in large quantities. Examples are plasmids, cosmids, and yeast artificial chromosomes; vectors are often recombinant molecules containing DNA sequences from several sources.

40 Preferably, a cosmid or a plasmid of the invention comprises a part of the RD1-2F9 region originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), said part comprising at least one, two, three or more gene(s) selected from Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20).

45 Preferably, a cosmid or a plasmid of the invention comprises a part of the RD1-2F9 region originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), said part comprising at least one, two, three or more gene(s) selected from Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19).

50 Preferably, a cosmid or a plasmid of the invention comprises CFP-10, ESAT-6 or both or a part of them. It may also comprise a mutated gene selected CFP-10, ESAT-6 or both,

said mutated gene being responsible for the improved immunogenicity and decreased virulence.

A cosmid or a plasmid as mentioned above may comprise at least four genes selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18; ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19), Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28), provided that it comprises Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10) and/or Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6)

Advantageously, a cosmid or a plasmid of the invention comprises a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19) or at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20) or at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20).

The above cosmids or plasmids may, further comprise Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE) Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE) Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10). It may also further comprise at least one, two, three or four gene(s) selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28).

Two particular cosmids of the invention are the cosmids herein referred as RD1-2F9 and RD1-AP34 contained in the *E. coli* strains deposited at the CNCM (Institut Pasteur, 25, rue du Docteur Roux, 75724 Paris cedex 15, France) under the accession number 1-2831 and 1-2832 respectively.

A particular plasmid or cosmid of the invention is one which has integrated the complete RD1-2F9 region as shown in SEQ ID No 1.

The invention also relates to the use of these cosmids or plasmids for transforming *M. bovis* BCG or *M. microti* strains.

As indicated above, these cosmids or plasmids may comprise a mutated gene selected from Rv3861 to Rv3885, said mutated gene being responsible for the improved immunogenicity and decreased virulence.

In another embodiment, the invention embraces a pharmaceutical composition comprising a strain as depicted above and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In addition to the strains, these pharmaceutical compositions may contain suitable pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers comprising excipients and auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the living vaccine into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically. Further details on techniques for formulation and administration may be found in the latest edition of Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (Maack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa.).

Preferably, such composition is suitable for oral, intravenous or subcutaneous administration.

The determination of the effective dose is well within the capability of those skilled in the art. A therapeutically effective dose refers to that amount of active ingredient, i.e the number of strains administered, which ameliorates the symptoms or condition. Therapeutic efficacy and toxicity may be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in experimental animals, e.g., ED50 (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population) and LD50 (the dose lethal to 50% of the population). The dose ratio of toxic to therapeutic effects is the therapeutic index, and it can be expressed as the ratio, LD50/ED50. Pharmaceutical compositions which exhibit large therapeutic indices are preferred. Of course, ED50 is to be modulated according to the mammal to be treated or vaccinated. In this regard, the invention contemplates a composition suitable for human administration as well as veterinary composition.

The invention is also aimed at a vaccine comprising a *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strain as depicted above and a suitable carrier. This vaccine is especially useful for preventing tuberculosis. It can also be used for treating bladder cancer.

The *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strains are also useful as a carrier for the expression and presentation of foreign antigens or molecules of interest that are of therapeutic or prophylactic interest. Owing to its greater persistence, BCG::RD1 will present antigens to the immune system over a longer period thereby inducing stronger, more robust immune responses and notably protective responses. Examples of such foreign antigens can be found in patents and patent applications U.S. Pat. No. 6,191,270 for antigen LSA3, U.S. Pat. No. 6,096,879 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,314,808 for HBV antigens, EP 201,540 for HIV-1 antigens, U.S. Pat. No. 5,986,051 for *H. pylori* antigens and FR 2,744,724 for *P. falciparum* MSP-1 antigen.

The invention also concerns a product comprising a strain as depicted above and at least one protein selected from ESAT-6 and CFP-10 or epitope derived thereof for a separate, simultaneous or sequential use for treating tuberculosis.

In still another embodiment, the invention concerns the use of a *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strain as depicted above for preventing or treating tuberculosis. It also concerns the use of a *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strain as a powerful adjuvant/immunomodulator used in the treatment of superficial bladder cancer.

The invention also contemplates the identification at the species level of members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex by means of an RD-based molecular diagnostic test. Inclusion of markers for RD1<sup>mic</sup> and RD5<sup>mic</sup> would improve the tests and act as predictors of virulence, especially in humans.

In this regard, the invention concerns a diagnostic kit for the identification at the species level of members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex comprising DNA probes and primers specifically hybridizing to a DNA portion of the RD1 or RD5 region of *M. tuberculosis*, more particularly probes hybridizing under stringent conditions to a gene selected from Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), and Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19), preferably CFP-10 and ESAT-6.

As used herein, the term "stringent conditions" refers to conditions which permit hybridization between the probe sequences and the polynucleotide sequence to be detected. Suitably stringent conditions can be defined by, for example, the concentrations of salt or formamide in the prehybridization and hybridization solutions, or by the hybridization temperature, and are well known in the art. In particular, stringency can be increased by reducing the concentration of salt,

increasing the concentration of formamide, or raising the hybridization temperature. The temperature range corresponding to a particular level of stringency can be further narrowed by calculating the purine to pyrimidine ratio of the nucleic acid of interest and adjusting the temperature accordingly. Variations on the above ranges and conditions are well known in the art.

Among the preferred primers, we can cite:

primer esat-6F	(SEQ ID No 32)
GTCACGTCCATTTCCT,	
primer esat-6R	(SEQ ID No 33)
ATCCAGTGACGTTGCCTT),	
primer RD1 <sup>mic</sup> flanking region F	(SEQ ID No 34)
GCACTGCAAAGGTGCAGATA,	
primer RD1 <sup>mic</sup> flanking region R	(SEQ ID No 35)
GATTGAGACACTTGCCACGA,	
primer RD5 <sup>mic</sup> flanking region F	(SEQ ID No 39)
GAATGCCGACGTATATCG,	
primer RD5 <sup>mic</sup> flanking region R	(SEQ ID NO 40)
CGGCCACTGAGTTCGATTAT.	

The present invention covers also the complementary nucleotide sequences of said above primers as well as the nucleotide sequences hybridizing under stringent conditions with them and having at least 20 nucleotides and less than 500 nucleotides.

Diagnostic fits for the identification at the species level of members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex comprising at least one, two, three or more antibodies directed to mycobacterial PE, PPE, CFP-10, ESAT-6, are also embraced by the invention.

Preferably, such kit comprises antibodies directed to CFP-10 and ESAT-6.

As used herein, the term "antibody" refers to intact molecules as well as fragments thereof, such as Fab, F(ab').sub.2, and Fv, which are capable of binding the epitopic determinant. Probes or antibodies can be labeled with isotopes, fluorescent or phosphorescent molecules or by any other means known in the art.

The invention also relates to virulence markers associated with RD1 and/or RD5 regions of the genome of *M. tuberculosis* or a part of these regions.

The invention is further detailed below and will be illustrated with the following figures.

#### FIGURE LEGENDS

FIG. 1: *M. bovis* BCG and *M. microti* have a chromosomal deletion, RD1, spanning the *cfp10-esat6* locus.

(A) Map of the *cfp10-esat6* region showing the six possible reading frames and the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv gene predictions. This map is also available at: [genolist.pasteur.fr/TubercuList/](http://genolist.pasteur.fr/TubercuList/).

The deleted regions are shown for BCG and *M. microti* with their respective H37Rv genome coordinates and the extent of the conserved ESAT-6 locus (F. Tekaia, et al., *Tubercle Lung Disease* 79, 329 (1999)), is indicated by the gray bar.

(B) Table showing characteristics of deleted regions selected for complementation analysis. Potential virulence factors and their putative functions disrupted by each deletion are shown. The coordinates are for the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genome.

(C) Clones used to complement BCG. Individual clones spanning RD1 regions (RD1-1106 and RD1-2F9) were selected from an ordered *M. tuberculosis* genomic library (R.B. unpublished) in pYUB412 (S. T. Cole, et al., *Nature* 393, 537 (1998) and W. R. Bange, F. M. Collins, W. R. Jacobs, Jr., *Tuber. Lung Dis.* 79, 171 (1999)) and electroporated into *M. bovis* BCG strains, or *M. microti*. Hygromycin-resistant transformants were verified using PCR specific for the corresponding genes. pAP35 was derived from RD1-2F9 by excision of an AA fragment pAP34 was constructed by subcloning an EcoRI-XbaI fragment into the integrative vector pKINT. The ends of each fragment are related to the BCG RD1 deletion (shaded box) with black lines and the H37Rv coordinates for the other fragment ends given in kilobases.

(D) Immunoblot analysis, using an ESAT-6 monoclonal antibody, of whole cell protein extracts from log-phase cultures of (well n° 1) H37Rv (S. T. Cole, et al., *Nature* 393, 537 (1998)), (n° 2) BCG::pYUB412 (M. A. Behr, et al., *Science* 284, 1520 (1999)), (n° 3) BCG::RD14106 (R. Brosch; et al., *Infection Immun.* 66, 2221 (1998)), (n° 4) BCG::RD1-2F9 (S. V. Gordon, et al., *Molec Microbiol* 32, 643 (1999)), (n° 5) *M. bovis* (H. Salamon et al., *Genome Res* 10, 2044 (2000)), (n° 6) *Mycobacterium smegmatis* (G. G. Mahairas, et al., *J. Bacteriol.* 178, 1274 (1996)), (n° 7) *M. smegmatis*::pYUB412, and (n° 8) *M. smegmatis*::RD1-2F9 (R. Brosch, et al., *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 99, 3684. (2002)).

FIG. 2: Complementation of BCG Pasteur with the RD1 region alters the colony morphology and leads to accumulation of Rv3873 and ESAT-6 in the cell wall.

(A) Serial dilutions of 3 week old cultures of BCG::pYUB412, BCG:1106 or BCG::RD1-2F9 growing on Middlebrook 7H10 agar plates. The white square shows the area of the plate magnified in the image to the right.

(B) Light microscope image at fifty fold magnification of BCG::pYUB412 and BCG::RD1-2F9 colonies. 5 µl drops of bacterial suspensions of each strain were spotted adjacently onto 7H10 plates and imaged after 10 days growth, illuminating the colonies through the agar.

(C) Immunoblot analysis of different cell fractions of H37Rv obtained from [cvms.colostate.edu/microbiology/tb/ResearchMA.html](http://cvms.colostate.edu/microbiology/tb/ResearchMA.html) using either an anti-ESAT6 antibody or

(D) anti-Rv3873 (PPE) rabbit serum. H37Rv and BOG signify whole cell extracts from the respective bacteria and Cyt, Mem and CW correspond to the cytosolic, membrane and cell wall fractions of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv.

FIG. 3: Complementation of BCG Pasteur with the RD1 region increases bacterial persistence and pathogenicity in mice.

(A) Bacteria in the spleen and lungs of BALB/c mice following intravenous (i.v.) infection via the lateral tail vein with 10<sup>6</sup> colony forming units (cfu) of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (black) or 10<sup>7</sup> cfu of either BCG::pYUB412 (light grey) or BCG::RD1-1106 (grey).

(B) Bacterial persistence in the spleen and lungs of C57BL/6 mice following infection with 10<sup>5</sup> cfu of BCG::pYUB412 (light grey), BCG::RD1-1106 (middle grey) or BCG::RD1-2F9 (dark grey):

(C) Bacterial multiplication after i.v. infection with 10<sup>6</sup> cfu of BCG::pYUB412 (light grey) and BCG::RD1-2F9 (grey) in severe combined immunodeficiency mice (SCID). For A, B, and C each timepoint is the mean of 3 to 4 mice and the error bars represent standard deviations.

(D) Splens from SCID mice three weeks after i.v. infection with  $10^6$  cfu of either BCG::pYUB412, BCG::RD1-2F9 or BCG::I301 (an RD3 “knock-in”, FIG. 1B). The scale is in cm.

FIG. 4: Immunization of mice with BCG::RD1 generates marked ESAT-6 specific T-cell responses and enhanced protection to a challenge with *M. tuberculosis*.

(A) Proliferative response of splenocytes of C57BL/6 mice immunized subcutaneously (s.c.) with  $10^6$  CFU of BCG::pYUB412 (open squares) or BCG::RD1-2F9 (solid squares) to in vitro stimulation with various concentrations of synthetic peptides from poliovirus type 1 capsid protein VP1, ESAT-6 or Ag85A (K. Huygen, et al., *Infect. Immun.* 62, 363 (1994), L. Brandt, *J. Immunol.* 157, 3527 (1996) and C. Leclerc et al., *J. Virol.* 65, 711 (1991)).

(B) Proliferation of splenocytes from BCG::RD1-2F9-immunised mice in the absence or presence of 10  $\mu$ g/ml of ESAT-6 1-20 peptide, with or without 1  $\mu$ g/ml of anti-CD4 (GK1.5) or anti-CD8 (H35-17-2) monoclonal antibody. Results are expressed as mean and standard deviation of  $^3$ H-thymidine incorporation from duplicate wells.

(C) Concentration of IFN- $\gamma$  in culture supernatants of splenocytes of C57BL/6 mice stimulated for 72 h with peptides or PPD after s.c. or i.v. immunization with either BCG::pYUB412 (middle grey and white) or BCG::RD1-2F9 (light grey and black). Mice were inoculated with either  $10^6$  (white and light grey) or  $10^7$  (middle grey and black) cfu. Levels of IFN- $\gamma$  were quantified using a sandwich ELISA (detection limit of 500 pg/ml) with the mAbs R4-6A2 and biotin-conjugated XMG1.2. Results are expressed as the mean and standard deviation of duplicate culture wells.

(D) Bacterial counts in the spleen and lungs of vaccinated and unvaccinated BALB/c mice 2 months after an i.v. challenge with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. The mice were challenged 2 months after i.v. inoculation with  $10^6$  cfu of either BCG::pYUB412 or BCG::RD1-2F9. Organ homogenates for bacterial enumeration were plated on 7H11 medium, with or without hygromycin, to differentiate *M. tuberculosis* from residual BCG colonies. Results are expressed as the mean and standard deviation of 4 to 5 mice and the levels of significance derived using the Wilcoxon rank sum test.

FIG. 5: *Mycobacterium microti* strain OV254 BAC map (BAC clones named MIXXX, where XXX is the identification number of the clone), overlaid on the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (BAC clones named RvXXX, where XXX is the identification number of the clone) and *M. bovis* AF2122/97 (BAC clones named MbXXX, where XXX is the identification number of the clone) BAC maps. The scale bars indicate the position on the *M. tuberculosis* genome.

FIG. 6: Difference in the region 4340-4360 kb between the deletion in BCG RD1<sup>bcg</sup> (A) and in *M. microti* RD1<sup>mic</sup> (C) relative to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (B).

FIG. 7: Difference in the region 3121-3127 kb between *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. (A) and *M. microti* OV254 (B). Gray boxes picture the direct repeats (DR), black ones the unique numbered spacer sequences. \* spacer sequence identical to the one of spacer 58 reported by van Embden et al. (42). Note that spacers 33-36 and 20-22 are not shown because H37Rv lacks these spacers.

FIG. 8: A) AseI PFGE profiles of various *M. microti* strains; Hybridization with a radiolabeled B) esat-6 probe; C) probe of the RD1<sup>mic</sup> flanking region; D) plcA probe. 1. *M. bovis* AF2122/97, 2. *M. canetti*, 3. *M. bovis* BCG Pasteur, 4. *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv, 5. *M. microti* OV254, 6. *M. microti* Myc 94-2272, 7. *M. microti* B3 type mouse, 8. *M. microti* B4 type

mouse, 9. *M. microti* B2 type llama, 10. *M. microti* B1 type llama, 11. *M. microti* ATCC 35782. M: Low range PFGE marker (NEB).

FIG. 9: PCR products obtained from various *M. microti* strains using primers that flank the RD1<sup>mic</sup> region, for amplifying ESAT-6 antigen, that flank the MiD2 region. 1. *M. microti* B1 type llama, 2. *M. microti* B4 type mouse, 3. *M. microti* B3 type mouse, 4. *M. microti* B2 type llama, 5. *M. microti* ATCC 35782, 6. *M. microti* OV254, 7. *M. microti* Myc 94-2272; 8. *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv.

FIG. 10: Map of the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv RD1 genomic region. Map of the fragments used to complement BCG and *M. microti* (black) and the genomic regions deleted from different mycobacterial strains (grey). The middle part show key genes, putative promoters (P) and transcripts, the various proteins from RD1 region, their sites (number of amino acid residues), InterPro domains ebi.ac.uk/interpro/, membership of *M. tuberculosis* protein families from TubercuList genolist.pasteur.fr/TubercuList/. The dashed lines mark the extent of the RD1 deletion in BCG, *M. microti* and *M. tuberculosis* clinical isolate MT56 (Brosch, R., et al. A new evolutionary scenario for the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 99, 3684-9. (2002)). *M. bovis* AF2122/97 is shown because it contains a frameshift mutation in Rv3881, a gene flanking the RD1 region of BCG. The fragments are drawn to show their ends in relation to the genetic map, unless they extend beyond the genomic region indicated. pRD1-2F9, pRD1-I106 and pAP35 are based on pYUB312; pAP34 on pKINT; pAP47 and pAP48 on pSM81.

FIG. 11: Western blot analysis of various RD1 knock-ins of *M. bovis* BCG and *M. microti*. The left panel shows results of immunodetection of ESAT-6, CFP-10 and PPE68 (Rv3873) in whole cells lysates (WCL) and culture supernatants of BCG; the center panel displays the equivalent findings from *M. microti* and the right panel contains *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv control samples. Samples from mycobacteria transformed with the following plasmids were present in lanes: -, pYUB412 vector control; 1, pAP34; 2, pAP35; 3, RD1-I106, 4, RD1-2F9. The positions of the nearest molecular weight markers are indicated.

FIG. 12: Analysis of immune responses induced by BCG recombinants. A, The upper three panels display the results of splenocyte proliferation assays in response to stimulation in vitro with a peptide from MalE (negative control), to PPD or to a peptide containing an immunodominant CD4-epitope from ESAT-6. B, The lower panel shows IFN-(production by splenocytes in response to the same antigens. Symbols indicate the nature of the various BCG transformants. Samples were taken from C57BL/6 mice immunized subcutaneously.

FIG. 13: Further immunological characterization of responses to BCG::RD1-2F9 A, Proliferative response of splenocytes of C57BL/6 mice immunized subcutaneously (s.c.) with  $10^6$  CFU of BCG::pYUB412 or BCG::RD1-2F9 to in vitro stimulation with various concentrations of synthetic peptides from poliovirus type 1 capsid protein VP1 (negative control), ESAT-6 or Ag85A (see Methods for details). B, Proliferation of splenocytes from BCG::RD1-2F9 immunized mice in the absence or presence of ESAT-6 1-20 peptide, with or without anti-CD4 or anti-CD8 monoclonal antibody. Results are expressed as mean and standard deviation of  $^3$ H-thymidine incorporation from duplicate wells. C, Concentration of IFN-(in culture supernatants of splenocytes of C57BL/6 mice stimulated for 72 h with peptides or PPD after s.c. or i.v. immunization with either BCG::pYUB412 or BCG::RD1-2F9. Mice were inoculated with either  $10^6$  or  $10^7$  CFU. Results are expressed as the mean and standard deviation of duplicate culture wells.

FIG. 14: Mouse protection studies. A, Bacterial counts in the spleen and lungs of vaccinated and unvaccinated C57BU6 mice 2 months after an i.v. challenge with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. The mice were challenged 2 months after i.v. inoculation with  $10^6$  cfu of either BCG::pYUB412 or BCG::RD1-2F9. Organ homogenates for bacterial enumeration were plated on 7H11 medium, with or without hygromycin, to differentiate *M. tuberculosis* from residual BCG colonies. Results are expressed as the mean and standard deviation of 4 mice. Hatched columns correspond to the cohort of unvaccinated mice, while white and black columns correspond to mice vaccinated with BCG::pYUB412 and BCG::RD1-2F9, respectively. B, Bacterial counts in the spleen and lungs of vaccinated and unvaccinated C57BL6 mice after an aerosol challenge with 1000 CFUs of *M. tuberculosis*. All mice were treated with antibiotics for three weeks prior to infection with *M. tuberculosis*. Data are the mean and SE measured on groups of three animals, and differences between groups were analyzed using ANOVA (\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ ).

FIG. 15: Guinea pig protection studies. A, Mean weight gain of vaccinated and unvaccinated guinea pigs following aerosol infection with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. Guinea pigs were vaccinated with either saline (triangles), BCG (squares) or BCG:RD1-2F9 (filled circles). The error bars are the standard error of the mean. Each time point represents the mean weight of six guinea pigs. For the saline vaccinated group the last live weight was used for calculating the means as the animals were killed on signs of severe tuberculosis which occurred after 50, 59, 71, 72, 93 and 93 days. B, Mean bacterial counts in the spleen and lungs of vaccinated and unvaccinated guinea pigs after an aerosol challenge with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. Groups of 6 guinea pigs were vaccinated subcutaneously with either saline, BCG or BCG:RD1-2F9 and infected 56 days later. Vaccinated animals were killed 120 days following infection and unvaccinated ones on signs of suffering or significant weight loss. The error bars represent the standard error of the mean of six observations. C, Spleens of vaccinated guinea pigs 120 days after infection with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv; left, animal immunized with BCG; right, animal immunized with BCG:RD1-2F9.

FIG. 16: Diagram of the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genomic region showing a working model for biogenesis and export of ESAT-6 proteins. It presents a possible functional model indicating predicted subcellular localization and potential interactions within the mycobacterial cell envelope. Rosetta stone analysis indicates direct interaction between proteins Rv3870 and Rv3871, and the sequence similarity between the N-terminal domains of Rv3868 and Rv3876 suggests that these putative chaperones might also interact. Rv3868 is a member of the AAA-family of ATPases that perform chaperone-like functions by assisting in the assembly, and disassembly of protein complexes (Neuwald, A. F., Aravind, L., Spouge, J. L. & Koonin, E. N. AAA+; A class of chaperone-like ATPases associated with the assembly, operation, and disassembly of protein complexes. *Genome Res* 9, 27-43. (1999).). It is striking that many type III secretion systems require chaperones for stabilization of the effector proteins that they secrete and for prevention of premature protein-protein interactions (Page, A. L. & Parsot, C. Chaperones of the type III secretion pathway: jacks of all trades. *Mol Microbiol* 46, 1-11. (2002).). Thus, Rv3868, and possibly Rv3876, may be required for the folding and/or dimerization of ESAT-6/CFP-10 proteins (Renshaw, P. S., et al. Conclusive evidence that the major T-cell antigens of the *M. tuberculosis* complex ESAT-6 and CFP-10 form a tight, 1:1 complex and characterization of the structural properties of ESAT-6, CFP-10 and the ESAT-6/CFP-10 complex: implications for pathogenesis and viru-

lence. *J Biol Chem* 8, 8 (2002).), or even to prevent premature dimerization. ESAT-6/CFP-10 are predicted to be exported through a transmembrane channel, consisting of at least Rv3870, Rv3871, and Rv3877, and possibly Rv3869, in a process catalyzed by ATP-hydrolysis. Rv3873 (PPE 68) is known to occur in the cell envelope and may also be involved as shown herein.

#### EXAMPLE 1

##### Preparation and Assessment of *M. bovis* BCG:RD1 Strains as a Vaccine for Treating or Preventing Tuberculosis

As mentioned above, we have found that complementation with RD1 was accompanied by a change in colonial appearance as the BCG Pasteur “knock-in” strains developed a strikingly different morphotype (FIG. 2A). The RD1 complemented strains adopted a spreading, less-rugose morphology, that is characteristic of *M. bovis*, and this was more apparent when the colonies were inspected by light microscopy (FIG. 2B). Maps of the clones used are shown (FIG. 1C). These changes were seen following complementation with all of the RD1 constructs (FIG. 1C) and on complementing *M. microti* (data not shown). Pertinently, Calmette and Guérin (A. Calmette, *La vaccination preventive contre la tuberculose*. (Masson et cie., Paris, 1927)) observed a change in colony morphology during their initial passaging of *M. bovis*, and our experiments now demonstrate that this change, corresponding to loss of RD1, directly contributed to attenuating this virulent strain. The integrity of the cell wall is known to be a key virulence determinant for *M. tuberculosis* (C. E. Barry, *Trends Microbiol* 9, 237 (2001)), and changes in both cell wall lipids (M. S. Glickman, J. S. Cox, W. R. Jacobs, Jr., *Mol Cell* 5, 717 (2000)) and protein (F. X. Berthet, et al., *Science* 282, 759 (1998)) have been shown to alter colony morphology and diminish persistence in animal models.

To determine which genes were implicated in these morphological changes, antibodies recognising three RD1 proteins (Rv3873, CFP10 and ESAT-6) were used in immunocytological and subcellular fractionation analysis. When the different cell fractions from *M. tuberculosis* were immunoblotted all three proteins were localized in the cell wall fraction (FIG. 2C) though significant quantities of Rv3873, a PPE protein, were also detected in the membrane and cytosolic fractions (FIG. 2D). Using immunogold staining and electron Microscopy the presence of ESAT-6 in the envelope of *M. tuberculosis* was confirmed but no alteration in capsular ultrastructure could be detected (data not shown). Previously, CFP-10 and ESAT-6 have been considered as secreted proteins (F. X. Berthet et al, *Microbiology* 144, 3195 (1998)) but our results suggest that their biological functions are linked directly with the cell wall:

Changes in colonial morphology are often accompanied by altered bacterial virulence. Initial assessment of the growth of different BCG:RD1 “knock-ins” in C57BL/6 or BALB/c mice following intravenous infection revealed that complementation did not restore levels of virulence to those of the reference strain *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (FIG. 3A). In longer-term experiments, modest yet significant differences were detected in the persistence of the BCG:RD1 “knock-ins” in comparison to BCG controls. Following intravenous infection of C57B116 mice, only the RD1 “knock-ins” were still detectable in the lungs after 106 days (FIG. 3B). This difference in virulence between the RD1 recombinants and the BCG vector control was more pronounced in severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) mice (FIG. 3C). The BCG:

RD1-2F9 “knock-in” was markedly more virulent, as evidenced by the growth rate in lungs and spleen and also by an increased degree of splenomegaly (FIG. 3D). Cytological examination revealed numerous bacilli, extensive cellular infiltration and granuloma formation. These increases in virulence following complementation with the RD1 region, demonstrate that the loss of this genomic locus contributed to the attenuation of BCG.

The inability to restore full virulence to BCG Pasteur was not due to instability of our constructs nor to the strain used (data not shown). Essentially identical results were obtained on complementing BCG Russia, a strain less passaged than BCG Pasteur and presumed, therefore, to be closer to the original ancestor (M. A. Behr, et al., *Science* 284, 1520 (1999)). This indicates that the attenuation of BCG was a polymutational process and loss of residual virulence for animals was documented in, the late 1920s (T. Oettinger, et al, *Tuber Lung Dis* 79, 243 (1999)). Using the same experimental strategy, we also tested the effects of complementing with RD3-5, RD7 and RD9 (S. T. Cole, et al., *Nature* 393, 537 (1998); M. A. Behr, et al., *Science* 284, 1520 (1999); Brosch, et al., *Infection Immun.* 66, 2221 (1998) and S. V. Gordon et al., *Molec Microbial* 32, 643 (1999)) encoding putative virulence factors (FIG. 1B). Reintroduction of these regions, which are not restricted to avirulent strains, did not affect virulence in immuno-competent mice. Although it is possible that deletion effects act synergistically it seems more plausible that other attenuating mechanisms are at play.

Since RD1 encodes at least two potent T-cell antigens (R. Colangelli, et al., *Infect. Immun.* 68, 990 (2000), M. Harboe, et al., *Infect. Immun.* 66, 717 (1998) and R. L. V. SkjØt, et al., *Infect. Immun.* 68, 214 (2000)), we investigated whether its restoration induced immune responses to these antigens or even improved the protective capacity of BCG. Three weeks following either intravenous or subcutaneous inoculation with BCG::RD1 or BCG controls, we observed similar proliferation of splenocytes to an Ag85A (an antigenic BCG protein) peptide (K. Huygen, et al., *Infect. Immun.* 62, 363 (1994)), but not against a control viral peptide (FIG. 4A). Moreover, BCG::RD1 generated powerful CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell responses against the ESAT-6 peptide as shown by splenocyte proliferation (FIG. 4A, B) and strong IFN- $\gamma$  production (FIG. 4C). In contrast, the BCG::pYUB412 control did not stimulate ESAT-6 specific T-cell responses thus indicating that these were mediated by the RD1 locus. ESAT-6 is, therefore, highly immunogenic in mice in the context of recombinant BCG.

When used as a subunit vaccine, ESAT-6 elicits T-cell responses and induces levels of protection weaker than but akin to those of BCG (L. Brandt et al, *Infect. Immun.* 68, 791 (2000)). Challenge experiments were conducted to determine if induction of immune responses to BCG::RD1-encoded antigens, such as ESAT-6, could improve protection against infection with *M. tuberculosis*. Groups of mice inoculated with either BCG::pYUB412 or BCG::RD1 were subsequently infected intravenously with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. These experiments showed that immunization with the BCG::RD1 “knock-in” inhibited the growth of *M. tuberculosis* within both BALB/c (FIG. 4D) and C57BL/6 mice when compared to inoculation with BCG alone.

Although the increases in protection induced by BCG::RD1 and the BCG control are modest they demonstrate convincingly that genetic differences have developed between the live vaccine and the pathogen which have weakened the protective capacity of BCG. This study therefore defines the genetic basis of a compromise that has occurred, during the attenuation process, between loss of virulence and reduced

protection (M. A. Behr, P. M. Small, *Nature* 389, 133 (1997)). The strategy of reintroducing, or even overproducing (M. A. Horwitz et al, *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 91, 13853 (2000)), the missing immunodominant antigens of *M. tuberculosis* in BCG, could be combined with an immuno-neutral attenuating mutation to create a more efficacious tuberculosis vaccine.

## EXAMPLE 2

### BAC Based Comparative Genomics Identifies *Mycobacterium microti* as a Natural ESAT-6 Deletion Mutant

We searched for any genetic differences between human and vole isolates that might explain their different degree of virulence and host preference and what makes the vole isolates harmless for humans. In this regard, comparative genomics methods were employed in connection with the present invention to identify major differences that may exist between the *M. microti* reference strain OV254 and the entirely sequenced strains of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (10) or *M. bovis* AF2122/97 (14). An ordered Bacterial Artificial Chromosome (BAC) library of *M. microti* OV254 was constructed and individual BAC to BAC comparison of a minimal set of these clones with BAC clones from previously constructed libraries of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and *M. bovis* AF2122/97 was undertaken.

Ten regions were detected in *M. microti* that were different to the corresponding genomic regions in *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis*. To investigate if these regions were associated with the ability of *M. microti* strains to infect humans, their genetic organization was studied in 8 additional *M. microti* strains; including those isolated recently from patients with pulmonary tuberculosis. This analysis identified some regions that were specifically absent from all tested *M. microti* strains, but present in all other members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex and other regions that were only absent from vole isolates of *M. microti*.

#### 2.1 Materials and Methods

##### Bacterial Strains and Plasmids.

*M. microti* OV254 which was originally isolated from voles in the UK in the 1930's was kindly supplied by M J Colston (45). DNA from *M. microti* OV216 and OV183 were included in a set of strains used during a multicenter study (26). *M. microti* Myc 94-2272 was isolated in 1988 from the perfusion fluid of a 41-year-old dialysis patient (43) and was kindly provided by L. M. Parsons. *M. microti*. 35782 was purchased from American Type Culture Collection (designation TMC 1608 (M. P. Prague)). *M. microti* B1 type llama, B2 type llama, B3 type mouse and B4 type mouse were obtained from the collection of the National Reference Center for *Mycobacteria*, Forschungszentrum Borstel, Germany. *M. bovis* strain AF2122/97, spoligotype 9 was responsible for a herd outbreak in Devon in the UK and has been isolated from lesions in both cattle and badgers. Typically, mycobacteria were grown on 7H9 Middlebrook liquid medium (Difco) containing 10% oleic-acid-dextrose-catalase (Difco), 0.2% pyruvic acid and 0.05% Tween 80.

##### Library Construction, Preparation of BAC DNA and Sequencing Reactions.

Preparation of agarose-embedded genomic DNA from *M. microti* strain OV254, *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv, *M. bovis* BCG was performed as described by Brosch et al. (5). The *M. microti* library was constructed by ligation of partially digested HindIII fragments (50-125 kb) into pBeloBAC11. From the 10,000 clones that were obtained, 2,000 were

picked into 96 well plates and stored at  $-80^{\circ}$  C. Plasmid preparations of recombinant clones for sequencing reactions were obtained by pooling eight copies of 96 well plates, with each well containing an overnight culture in 250  $\mu$ l 2YT medium with 12.5  $\mu$ g $\cdot$ ml $^{-1}$  chloramphenicol. After 5 min centrifugation at 3000 rpm; the bacterial pellets were resuspended in 25  $\mu$ l of solution A (25 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 50 mM glucose and 10 mM EDTA), cells were lysed by adding 25  $\mu$ l of buffer B (NaOH 0.2 M, SDS 0.2%). Then 20  $\mu$ l of cold 3 M sodium acetate pH 4.8 were added and kept on ice for 30 min. After centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 30 min, the pooled supernatants (140  $\mu$ l) were transferred to new plates. 130  $\mu$ l of isopropanol were added, and after 30 min on ice, DNA was pelleted by centrifugation at 3500 rpm for 15 min. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet resuspended in 50  $\mu$ l of a 10  $\mu$ g/ml RNAse A solution (in Tris 10 mM pH 7.5/EDTA 10 mM) and incubated at 64 $^{\circ}$  C. for 15 min. After precipitation (2.5  $\mu$ l of sodium acetate 3 M pH 7 and 200  $\mu$ l of absolute ethanol) pellets were rinsed with 200  $\mu$ l of 70% ethanol, air dried and finally suspended in 20  $\mu$ l of TE buffer.

End-sequencing reactions were performed with a Taq DyeDeoxy Terminator cycle sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems) using a mixture of 13  $\mu$ l of DNA solution, 2  $\mu$ l of Primer (2  $\mu$ M) (SP6-BAC1, AGTTAGCTCACTCATTAGGCA (SEQ ID No 15), or T7-BAC1, GGATGTGCTGCAAGGC-GATTA (SEQ ID No 16)), 2.5  $\mu$ l of Big Dye and 2.5  $\mu$ l of a 5 $\times$  buffer (50 mM MgCl $_2$ , 50 mM Tris). Thermal cycling was performed on a PTC-100 amplifier (MJ Inc.) with an initial denaturation step of 60 s at 95 $^{\circ}$  C., followed by 90 cycles of 15 s at 95 $^{\circ}$  C., 15 s at 56 $^{\circ}$  C., 4 min at 60 $^{\circ}$  C. DNA was then precipitated with 80  $\mu$ l of 76% ethanol and centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 30 min. After discarding the supernatant, DNA was finally rinsed with 80  $\mu$ l of 70% ethanol and resuspended in appropriate buffers depending on the type of automated sequencer used (ABI 377 or ABI 3700). Sequence data were transferred to Digital workstations and edited using the TED software from the Staden package (37). Edited sequences were compared against the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv database genolist.pasteur.fr/TubercuList/, the *M. bovis* BLAST server sanger.ac.uk/Projects/M bovis/blast, and in-house databases to determine the relative positions of the *M. microti* OV254 BAC end-sequences.

Preparation of BAC DNA from Recombinants and BAC Digestion Profile Comparison.

DNA for digestion was prepared as previously described (4). DNA (1  $\mu$ g) was digested with HindIII (Boehringer) and restriction products separated by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) on a Biorad CHEF-DR III system using a 1% (w/v) agarose gel and a pulse of 3.5 s for 17 h at 6 V $\cdot$ cm $^{-1}$ . Low-range PFGE markers (NEB) were used as size standards. Insert sizes were estimated after ethidium bromide staining and visualization with UV light. Different comparisons were made with overlapping clones from the *M. microti* OV254, *M. bovis* AF2122/97, and *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv pBeloBAC11 libraries.

PCR Analysis to Determine Presence of Genes in Different *M. microti* Strains.

Reactions contained 5  $\mu$ l of 10 $\times$ PCR buffer (100 mM  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, 600 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.8, 20 mM MgCl $_2$ , 170 mM (NH $_4$ ) $_2$ SO $_4$ , 20 mM nucleotide mix dNTP), 2.5  $\mu$ l of each primer at 2  $\mu$ M, 10 ng of template DNA, 10% DMSO and 0.5 unit of Taq polymerase in a final volume of 12.5  $\mu$ l. Thermal cycling was performed on a PTC-100 amplifier (MJ Inc.) with an initial denaturation step of 90 s at 95 $^{\circ}$  C., followed by 35 cycles of 45 s at 95 $^{\circ}$  C., 1 min at 60 $^{\circ}$  C. and 2 min at 72 $^{\circ}$  C.

RFLP Analysis.

In brief, agarose plugs of genomic DNA prepared as previously described (5) were digested with either AseI, DraI or XbaI (NEB), then electrophoresed on a 1% agarose gel, and finally transferred to Hybond-C extra nitrocellulose membranes (Amersham). Different probes were amplified by PCR from the *M. microti* strain OV254 or *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv using primers for:

esat-6 (esat-6F GTCACGTCCATTCCATCCCT (SEQ ID No 17);

esat-6R ATCCCAGTGACGTTGCCTT) (SEQ ID No 18), the RD1<sup>mic</sup> flanking region (4340, 209F GCAGTGCAAAG-GTGCAGATA (SEQ ID No 19); 4354,701R GATTGAGACACTTGCCACGA (SEQ ID No 20)), or

plcA (plcA.int.F CAAGTTGGGTCTGGTCTCGAAT (SEQ No 21); plcA.int.R GCTACCCAAGGTCCTCGGT (SEQ ID No 22)). Amplification products were radio-labeled by using the Stratagene Prime-It II kit (Stratagene). Hybridizations were performed at 65 $^{\circ}$  C. in a solution containing NaCl 0.8 M, EDTA pH 8, 5 mM, sodium phosphate 50 mM pH 8, 2% SDS, 1 $\times$ Denhardt's reagent and 100  $\mu$ g/ml salmon sperm DNA (Genaxis). Membranes were exposed to phosphorimager screens and images were digitalized by using a STORM phospho-imager.

DNA Sequence Accession Numbers.

The nucleotide sequences that flank MID1, Mid2, Mid3 as well as the junction sequence of RD1<sup>mic</sup> have been deposited in the EMBL database. Accession numbers are AJ345005, AJ345006, AJ315556 and AJ315557, respectively.

2.2 Results

Establishment of a Complete Ordered BAC Library of *M. microti* OV254.

Electroporation of pBeloBAC11 containing partial HindIII digests of *M. microti* OV254 DNA into *Escherichia coli* DH10B yielded about 10,000 recombinant clones, from which 2,000 were isolated and stored in 96-well plates. Using the complete sequence of the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genome as a scaffold, end-sequencing of 384 randomly chosen *M. microti* BAC clones allowed us to select enough clones to cover almost all of the 4.4 Mb chromosome. A few rare clones that spanned regions that were not covered by this approach were identified by PCR screening of pools as previously described (4). This resulted in a minimal set of 50 BACs, covering over 99.9% of the *M. microti* OV254 genome, whose positions relative to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv are shown in FIG. 5. The insert size ranged between 50 and 125 kb, and the recombinant clones were stable. Compared with other BAC libraries from tubercle bacilli (4, 13) the *M. microti* OV254 BAC library contained clones that were generally larger than those obtained previously, which facilitated the comparative genomics approach, described below.

Identification of DNA Deletions in *M. microti* OV254 Relative to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv by Comparative Genomics.

The minimal overlapping set of 50 BAC clones, together with the availability of three other ordered BAC libraries from *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv, *M. bovis* BCG Pasteur 1173P2 (5, 13) and *M. bovis* AF2122/97 (14) allowed us to carry out direct BAC to BAC comparison of clones spanning the same genomic regions. Size differences of PFGE-separated HindIII restriction fragments from *M. microti* OV254 BACs, relative to restriction fragments from *M. bovis* and/or *M. tuberculosis* BAC clones, identified loci that differed among the tested strains. Size variations of at least 2 kb were easily detectable and 10 deleted regions, evenly distributed around the genome, and containing more than 60 open reading

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frames (ORFs), were identified. These regions represent over 60 kb that are missing from *M. microti* OV254 strain compared to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. First, it was found that phiRv2 (RD11), one of the two *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv prophages was present in *M. microti* OV254, whereas phiRv1, also referred to as RD3 (29) was absent. Second, it was found that *M. microti* lacks four of the genomic regions that were also absent from *M. bovis* BCG. In fact, these four regions of difference named RD7, RD8, RD9 and RD10 are absent from all members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex with the exception of *M. tuberculosis* and *M. canettii*, and seem to have been lost from a common progenitor strain of *M. africanum*, *M. microti* and *M. bovis* (3). As such, our results obtained with individual BAC to BAC comparisons show that *M. microti* is part of this non-*M. tuberculosis* lineage of the tubercle bacilli, and this assumption was further confirmed by sequencing the junction regions of RD7-RD10 in *M. microti* OV254. The sequences obtained were identical to those from *M. africanum*, *M. bovis* and *M. bovis* BCG strains. Apart from these four conserved regions of difference, and phiRv1 (RD3) *M. microti* OV254 did not show any other RDs with identical junction regions to *M. bovis* BCG Pasteur, which misses at least 17 RDs relative to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (1, 13, 35). However, five other regions missing from the genome of *M. microti* OV254 relative to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv were identified (RD1<sup>mic</sup>, RD5<sup>mic</sup>, MiD1, MiD2, MiD3). Such regions are specific either for strain OV254 or for *M. microti* strains in general. Interestingly, two of these regions, RD1<sup>mic</sup>, RD5<sup>mic</sup> partially overlap RDs from the *M. bovis* BCG.

Antigens ESAT-6 and CFP-10 are Absent from *M. microti*.

One of the most interesting findings of the BAC to BAC comparison was a novel deletion in a genomic region close to the origin of replication (FIG. 5). Detailed PCR and sequence analysis of this region in *M. microti* OV254 showed a segment of 14 kb to be missing (equivalent to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv from 4340.4 to 4354.5 kb) that partly overlapped RD1<sup>bcg</sup> absent from *M. bovis* BCG. More precisely, ORFs Rv3864 and Rv3876 are truncated in *M. microti* OV254 and ORFs Rv3865 to Rv3875 are absent (FIG. 6). This observation is particularly interesting as previous comparative genomic analysis identified RD1<sup>bcg</sup> as the only RD region that is specifically absent from all BCG sub-strains but present in all other members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex (1, 4, 13, 29,

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35). As shown in FIG. 6, in *M. microti* OV254 the RD1<sup>mic</sup> deletion is responsible for the loss of a large portion of the conserved ESAT-6 family core region (40) including the genes coding for the major T-cell antigens ESAT-6 and CFP-10 (2, 15). The fact that previous deletion screening protocols employed primer sequences that were designed for the right hand portion of the RD1<sup>bcg</sup> region (i.e. gene Rv3878) (6, 39) explains why the RD1<sup>mic</sup> deletion was not detected earlier by these investigations. FIG. 6 shows that RD1<sup>mic</sup> does not affect genes Rv3877, Rv3878 and Rv3879 which are part of the RD1<sup>bcg</sup> deletion.

Deletion of Phospholipase-C Genes in *M. microti* OV254. RD5<sup>mic</sup>, the other region absent from *M. microti* OV254, that partially overlapped an RD region from BCG, was revealed by comparison of BAC clone Mi18A5 with BAC Rv143 (FIG. 5). PCR analysis and sequencing of the junction region revealed that RD5<sup>mic</sup> was smaller than the RD5 deletion in BCG (Table 2 and 3 below).

TABLE 2

Description of the putative function of the deleted and truncated ORFs in <i>M. microti</i> OV254			
Region	Start-End	overlapping ORF	Putative Function or family
RD 10	264.5-266.5	Rv0221-Rv0223	echA1
RD 3	1779.5-1788.5	Rv1573-Rv1586	bacteriophage proteins
RD 7	2207.5-2220.5	Rv1964-Rv1977	yrbE3A-3B; mce3A-F; unknown
RD 9	2330-2332	Rv2072-Rv2075	cobL; probable oxidoreductase; unknown
RD5 <sup>mic</sup>	2627.6-2633.4	Rv2348-Rv2352	plc A-C; member of PPE family
MiD1	3121.8-3126.6	Rv2816-Rv2819	IS6110 transposase; unknown
MiD2	3554.0-3755.2	Rv3187-Rv3190	IS6110 transposase; unknown
MiD3	3741.1-3755.7	Rv3345-Rv3349	members of the PE-PGRS and PPE families; insertion elements
RD8	4056.8-4062.7	Rv3617-Rv3618	ephA; lpqG; member of the PE-PGRS family
RD1 <sup>mic</sup>	4340.4-4354.5	Rv3864-Rv3876	member of the CBXX/CF QX family; member of the PE and PPE families; ESAT-6; CFP10; unknown

TABLE 3

Sequence at the junction of the deleted regions in <i>M. microti</i> OV254				
Junction Position	ORFs	Sequences at the junction	Flanking primers	
RD1 <sup>mic</sup> (SEQ ID No 23)	4340, 421- 4354, 533	Rv3864- Rv3876	CAAGACGAGGTTGTA AACCTCGACG CAGGATCGGCATGAAATGCCAGTCG GCGTCGCTGAGCGCGCTCGCCGA GTCCCATTTGTCGCTGATTTGTTGAACA GCGACGAACCGGTGTGAAAATGTCGCCT GGGTCGGGATTCCCT	4340, 209F (SEQ ID No 19) GCAGTGCAAAGGTGCAGATA 4354, 701R (SEQ ID No 20) GATTGAGACTTGCCACGA
RD5 <sup>mic</sup> (SEQ ID No 26)	2627, 831- 2635, 581	Rv2349- Rv2355	CCTCGATGAAACCACCTGACATGACCC CATCCTTTCCAAGAACTGGAGTCTCC GGACATGCCGGGCGGTTCACTGCC CAGGTGTCCTGGGTCGTTCCGTTGACCGT CGAGTCCGAACATCCGTCATTCCCGGTG CAGTCGGTCCGGTGAC	2627, 370F (SEQ ID No 24) GAATGCCGACGTTCATATCG 2633, 692R (SEQ ID No 25) CGGCCACTGAGTTGATTAT
MiD1 (SEQ ID No 29)	3121, 880- 3126, 684	Rv2815c- Rv2818c	CACCTGACATGACCCCATCCTTTCCA AGAACTGGAGTCTCCGGACATGCCCG GGCGGTTGAGGACATTCATGTCATCTT CTGGCAGATCAGCAGATCGCTTGTCTCAG TGCAGGTGAGTC	3121, 690F (SEQ ID No 27) CAGCCAACACCAAGTAGACG 3126, 924R (SEQ ID No 28) TCTACCTGCAGTCGCTTGTG

TABLE 3-continued

Sequence at the junction of the deleted regions in <i>M. microti</i> OV254				
Junction Position	ORFs	Sequences at the junction		Flanking primers
MiD2 (SEQ ID No 32)	3554,066- Rv3188- 3555,259 Rv3189	<b>GCTGCCTACTACGCTCAACGCCAGAG</b>		3553,880F (SEQ ID No 30)
		<b>ACCAGCCGCGGCTGAGGTCTCAGAT</b>		GTCCATCGAGGATGTCGAGT
		<b>CAGAGAGTCTCCGGACTCACCGGGC</b>		3555,385R (SEQ ID No 31)
		<b>GGTTCA TAAAGGCTTCGAGACCGGACGG</b>		CTAGGCCATTCCGTTGCTCTG
		<b>GCTGTAGGTTCTCAACTGTGTGGCGGAT</b> <b>GGTCTGAGCACTTAAC</b>		
MiD3 (SEQ ID No 35)	3741,139- Rv3345c- 3755,777 Rv3349d	<b>TTGGCGCCGGCACCTCCGTTGCCACCG</b>		3740,950F (SEQ ID No 33)
		<b>TTGCCGCGCTGGTGGGCGCGGTGCC</b>		GGCGACGCCATTTC
		<b>GTTCGCCCGGGCCGAACCGTTCAGGG</b>		3755,988R (SEQ ID No 34)
		<b>CCGGGTTCCGCCCTCAGCCGCTAAACACG</b>		AACTGTCGGGCTTGCTCTT
		<b>CCGACCAAGATCAACGAGCTACCTGCCCG</b>		
		<b>GTCAAGGTTGAAGAGCCCCATATCAGCA</b> <b>AGGGCCCGGTGTCGGCG</b>		

In fact, *M. microti* OV254 lacks the genes *plcA*, *plcB*, *plcC* and one specific PPE-protein encoding gene (Rv2352). This was confirmed by the absence of a clear band on a Southern blot of *Asel* digested genomic DNA from *M. microti* OV254 hybridized with a *plcA* probe. However, the genes Rv2346c and Rv2347c, members of the *esat-6* family, and Rv2348c, that are missing from *M. bovis* and BCG strains (3) are still present in *M. microti* OV254. The presence of an IS6110 element in this segment suggests that recombination between two IS6110 elements could have been involved in the loss of RD5<sup>mic</sup>, and this is supported by the finding that the remaining copy of IS6110 does not show a 3 base-pair direct repeat in strain OV254 (Table 3).

Lack of MiD1 Provides Genomic Clue for *M. microti* OV254 Characteristic Spoligotype.

MiD1 encompasses the three ORFs Rv2816, Rv2817 and Rv2818 that encode putative proteins whose functions are yet unknown, and has occurred in the direct repeat region (DR), a polymorphic locus in the genomes of the tubercle bacilli that contains a cluster of direct repeats of 36 bp, separated by unique spacer sequences of 36 to 41 bp (17), (FIG. 7). The presence or absence of 43 unique spacer sequences that intercalate the DR sequences is the basis of spacer-oligo typing, a powerful typing method for strains from the *M. tuberculosis* complex (23). *M. microti* isolates exhibit a characteristic spoligotype with an unusually small DR cluster, due to the presence of only spacers 37 and 38 (43). In *M. microti* OV254, the

absence of spacers 1 to 36, which are present in many other *M. tuberculosis* complex strains, appears to result from a 16110 mediated deletion of 636 bp of the DR region. Amplification and *PvuII* restriction analysis of a 2.8 kb fragment obtained with primers located in the genes that flank the DR region (Rv2813c and Rv2819) showed that there is only one copy of IS6110 remaining in this region (FIG. 7). This 16110 element is inserted into ORF Rv2819 at position 3,119,932 relative to the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genome. As for other IS6110 elements that result from homologous recombination between two copies (7), no 3 base-pair direct repeat was found for this copy of IS6110 in the DR region. Concerning the absence of spacers 39-43 (FIG. 7), it was found that *M. microti* showed a slightly different organization of this locus than *M. bovis* strains, which also characteristically lack spacers 39-43. In *M. microti* OV254 an extra spacer of 36 bp was found that was not present in *M. bovis* nor in *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. The sequence of this specific spacer was identical to that of spacer 58 reported by van Embden and colleagues (42). In their study of the DR region in many strains from the *M. tuberculosis* complex this spacer was only found in *M. microti* strain NLA000016240 (AF189828) and in some ancestral *M. tuberculosis* strains (3, 42). Like MiD1, MiD2 most probably results from an IS6110-mediated deletion of two genes (Rv3188, Rv3189) that encode putative proteins whose function is unknown (Table 3 above and Table 4 below),

TABLE 4

Strain	Presence of the RD and MiD regions in different <i>M. microti</i> strains								
	HOST								
	VOLES			HUMAN					
	OV 254	OV183	OV216	ATCC 35782	Myc 94-2272	B3 type mouse	B4 type mouse	B1 type llama	B2 type llama
RD1 <sup>mic</sup>	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
RD 3	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
RD 7	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
RD8	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
RD 9	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
RD 10	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
MiD3	absent	ND	ND	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
MiD1	absent	ND	ND	present	partial	partial	partial	present	present
RD5 <sup>mic</sup>	absent	absent	absent	present	present	present	present	present	present
MiD2	absent	ND	ND	present	present	present	present	present	present

ND, not determined

Absence of Some Members of the PPE Family in *M. microti*.

MiD3 was identified by the absence of two HindIII sites in BAC Mi4B9 that exist at positions 3749 kb and 3754 kb in the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv chromosome. By PCR and sequence analysis, it was determined that MiD3 corresponds to a 12 kb deletion that has truncated or removed five genes orthologous to Rv3345c-Rv3349c. Rv3347c encodes a protein of 3157 amino-acids that belongs to the PPE family and Rv3346c a conserved protein that is also present in *M. leprae*. The function of both these putative proteins is unknown while Rv3348 and Rv3349 are part of an insertion element (Table 2). At present, the consequences of the MiD3 deletions for the biology of *M. microti* remains entirely unknown.

Extra-DNA in *M. microti* OV254 Relative to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv.

*M. microti* OV254 possesses the 6 regions RvD1 to RvD5 and TBD1 that are absent from the sequenced strain *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv, but which have been shown to be present in other members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex, like *M. canettii*, *M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, and *M. bovis* BCG (3, 7, 13). In *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv, four of these regions (RvD2-5) contain a copy of IS6110 which is not flanked by a direct, repeat, suggesting that recombination of two IS6110 elements was involved in the deletion of the intervening genomic regions (7). In consequence, it seems plausible that these regions were deleted from the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genome rather than specifically acquired by *M. microti*. In addition, three other small insertions have also been found and they are due to the presence of an IS6110 element in a different location than in *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and *M. bovis* AF2122/97. Indeed, PvuII RFLP analysis of *M. microti* OV254 reveals 13 IS6110 elements (data not shown).

Genomic Diversity of *M. microti* Strains.

In order to obtain a more global picture of the genetic organization of the taxon *M. microti* we evaluated the presence or absence of the variable regions found in strain OV254 in eight other *M. microti* strains. These strains which were isolated from humans and voles have been designated as *M. microti* mainly on the basis of their specific spoligotype (26, 32, 43) and can be further divided into subgroups according to the host such as voles, llama and humans (Table 3). As stated in, the introduction, *M. microti* is rarely found in humans unlike *M. tuberculosis*. So the availability of 9 strains from variable sources for genetic characterization is an exceptional resource. Among them was one strain (Myc 94-2272) from a severely immuno-compromised individual (43), and four strains were isolated from HIV-positive or HIV-negative humans with spoligotypes typical of llama and mouse isolates. For one strain, ATCC 35872/M.P. Prague, we could not identify with certainty the original host from which the strain was isolated, nor if this strain corresponds to *M. microti* OV166, that was received by Dr. Sula from Dr. Wells and used thereafter for the vaccination program in Prague in the 1960's (38).

First, we were interested if these nine strains designated as *M. microti* on the basis of their spoligotypes also resembled each other by other molecular typing criteria. As RFLP of pulsed-field gel separated chromosomal DNA represents probably the most accurate molecular typing strategy for bacterial isolates, we determined the AseI profiles of the available *M. microti* strains, and found that the profiles resembled each other closely but differed significantly from the macro-restriction patterns of *M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis* and *M. bovis* BCG strains used as controls. However, as depicted in FIG. 8A, the patterns were not identical to each other and each *M. microti* strain showed subtle differences,

suggesting that they were not epidemiologically related. A similar observations was made with other rare cutting restriction enzymes, like DraI or XbaI (data not shown).

Common and Diverging Features of *M. microti* Strains.

Two strategies were used to test for the presence or absence of variable regions in these strains for which we do not have ordered BAC libraries. First, PCRs using internal and flanking primers of the variable regions were employed and amplification products of the junction regions were sequenced. Second, probes from the internal portion of variable regions absent from *M. microti* OV254 were obtained by amplification of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv DNA using specific primers. Hybridization with these radio-labeled probes was carried out on blots from PFGE separated AseI restriction digests of the *M. microti* strains. In addition, we confirmed the findings obtained by these two techniques by using a focused macroarray, containing some of the genes identified in variable regions of the tubercle bacilli to date (data not shown).

This Led to the Finding that the RD1<sup>mic</sup> Deletion is Specific for all *M. Microti* Strains Tested.

Indeed, none of the *M. microti* DNA-digests hybridized with the radio-labeled esat-6 probe (FIG. 8B) but with the RD1<sup>mic</sup> flanking region (FIG. 8C). In addition, PCR amplification using primers flanking the RD1<sup>mic</sup> region (Table 2) yielded fragments of the same size for *M. microti* strains whereas no products were obtained for *M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis* and *M. bovis* BCG strains (FIG. 9). Furthermore, the sequence of the junction region was found identical among the strains which confirms that the genomic organization of the RD1<sup>mic</sup> locus was the same in all tested *M. microti* strains (Table 3). This clearly demonstrates that *M. microti* lacks the conserved ESAT-6 family core region stretching in other members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex from Rv3864 to Rv3876 and, as such, represents a taxon of naturally occurring ESAT-6/CFP-10 deletion mutants.

Like RD1<sup>mic</sup>, MiD3 was found to be absent from all nine *M. microti* strains tested and, therefore, appears to be a specific genetic marker that is restricted to *M. microti* strains (Table 3). However, PCR amplification showed that RD5<sup>mic</sup> is absent only from the vole isolates OV254, OV216 and OV183, but present in the *M. microti* strains isolated from human and other origins (Table 3). This was confirmed by the presence of single bands but of differing sizes on a Southern blot hybridized with a plcA probe for all *M. microti* tested strains except OV254 (FIG. 5D). Interestingly, the presence or absence of RD5<sup>mic</sup> correlated with the similarity of IS6110 RFLP profiles. The profiles of the three *M. microti* strains isolated from voles in the UK differed considerably from the IS6110 RFLP patterns of humans isolates (43). Taken together; these results underline the proposed involvement of IS6110 mediated deletion of the RD5 region and further suggest that RD5 may be involved in the variable potential of *M. microti* strains to cause disease in humans. Similarly, it was found that MID1 was missing only from the vole isolates OV254, OV216 and OV183, which display the same spoligotype (43), confirming the observations that MiD1 confers the particular spoligotype of a group of *M. microti* strains isolated from voles. In contrast, PCR analysis revealed that MiD1 is only partially deleted from strains B3 and B4 both characterized by the mouse spoligotype and the human isolate *M. microti* Myc 94-2272 (Table 3). For strain ATCC 35782 deletion of the MiD1 region was not observed. These findings correlate with the described spoligotypes of the different isolates, as strains that had intact or partially deleted MiD1 regions had more spacers present than the vole isolates that only showed spacers 37 and 38.

## 2.3 Comments and Discussion

We have searched for major genomic variations, due to insertion-deletion events, between the vole pathogen, *M. microti*, and the human pathogen, *M. tuberculosis*. BAC based comparative genomics led to the identification of 10 regions absent from the genome of the vole bacillus *M. microti* OV254 and several insertions due to IS6110. Seven of these deletion regions were also absent from eight other *M. microti* strains, isolated from voles or humans, and they account for more than 60 kb of genomic DNA.

Of these regions, RD1<sup>mic</sup> is of particular interest, because absence of part of this region has been found to be restricted to the BCG vaccine strains to date. As *M. microti* was originally described as non pathogenic for humans, it is proposed here that RD1 genes are involved in the pathogenicity for humans. This is reinforced by the fact that RD1<sup>bcg</sup> (29) has lost putative ORFs belonging to the esat-6 gene cluster including the genes encoding ESAT-6 and CFP-10 (FIG. 6) (40). Both polypeptides have been shown to act as potent stimulators of the immune system and are antigens recognized during the early stages of infection (8, 12, 20, 34). Moreover, the biological importance of this RD1 region for mycobacteria is underlined by the fact that it is also conserved in *M. leprae*, where genes ML0047-ML0056 show high similarities in their sequence and operon organization to the genes in the esat-6 core region of the tubercle bacilli (11). In spite of the radical gene decay observed in *M. leprae* the esat-6 operon apparently has kept its functionality in this organism.

However, the RD1 deletion may not be the only reason why the vole bacillus is attenuated for humans. Indeed, it remains unclear why certain *M. microti* strains included in the present study that show exactly the same RD1<sup>mic</sup> deletion as vole isolates, have been found as causative agents of human tuberculosis. As human *M. microti* cases are extremely rare, the most plausible explanation for this phenomenon would be that the infected people were particularly susceptible for mycobacterial infections in general. This could have been due to an immunodeficiency (32, 43) or to a rare genetic host predisposition such as interferon gamma- or IL-12 receptor modification (22).

In addition; the finding that human *M. microti* isolates differed from vole isolates by the presence of region RD5<sup>mic</sup> may also have an impact on the increased potential of human *M. microti* isolates to cause disease. Intriguingly, BCG and the vole bacillus lack overlapping portions of this chromosomal region that encompasses three (plcA, plcB, plcC) of the four genes encoding phospholipase C (PLC) in *M. tuberculosis*. PLC has been recognized as an important virulence factor in numerous bacteria, including *Clostridium perfringens*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, where it plays a role in cell to cell spread of bacteria, intracellular survival, and cytolysis (36, 41). To date, the exact role of PLC for the tubercle bacilli remains unclear. plcA encodes the antigen mtp40 which has previously been shown to be absent from seven tested vole and hyrax isolates (28). Phospholipase C activity in *M. tuberculosis*, *M. microti* and *M. bovis*, but not in *M. bovis* BCG, has been reported (21, 47). However; PLC and sphingomyelinase activities have been found associated with the most virulent mycobacterial species (21). The levels of phospholipase C activity detected in *M. bovis* were much lower than those seen in *M. tuberculosis* consistent with the loss of plcABC. It is likely, that plcD is responsible for the residual phospholipase C activity in strains lacking RD5, such as *M. bovis* and *M. microti* OV254. Indeed, the plcD gene is located in region RvD2 which is present in some but not all tubercle bacilli (13, 18). Phospholipase encoding genes have been recognized as hotspots for

integration of IS6110 and it appears that the regions RD5 and RvD2 undergo independent deletion processes more frequently than any other genomic regions (44). Thus, the virulence of some *M. microti* strains may be due to a combination of functional phospholipase C encoding genes (7, 25, 26, 29).

Another intriguing detail revealed by this study is that among the deleted genes seven code for members of the PPE family of Gly-, Ala-, Asn-rich proteins. A closer look at the sequences of these genes showed that in some cases they were small proteins with unique sequences, like for example Rv3873, located in the RD1<sup>mic</sup> region, or Rv2352c and Rv2353c located in the RD5<sup>mic</sup> region. Others, like Rv3347c, located in the MiD3 region code for a much larger PPE protein (3157 aa). In this case a neighboring gene (Rv3345c), belonging to another multigene family, the PE-PGRS family, was partly affected by the MiD3 deletion. While the function of the PE/PPE proteins is currently unknown, their predicted abundance in the proteome of *M. tuberculosis* suggests that they may play an important role in the life cycle of the tubercle bacilli. Indeed, recently some of them were shown to be involved in the pathogenicity of *M. tuberculosis* strains (9). Complementation of such genomic regions in *M. microti* OV254 should enable us to carry out proteomics and virulence studies in animals in order to understand the role of such ORFs in pathogenesis.

In conclusion, this study has shown that *M. microti*, a taxon originally named after its major host *Microtus agrestis*, the common vole, represents a relatively homogenous group of tubercle bacilli. Although all tested strains showed unique PFGE macro-restriction patterns that differed slightly among each other, deletions that were common to all *M. microti* isolates (RD7-RD10, MiD3, RD1<sup>mic</sup>) have been identified. The conserved nature of these deletions suggests that these strains are derived from a common precursor that has lost these regions, and their loss may account for some of the observed common phenotypic properties of *M. microti*, like the very slow growth on solid media and the formation of tiny colonies. This finding is consistent with results from a recent study that showed that *M. microti* strains carry a particular mutation in the gyrB gene (31).

Of Particular Interest, Some of these Common Features (e.g. The Flanking Regions of RD1<sup>Mic</sup>, or MiD3) could be Exploited for an Easy-to-Perform PCR Identification Test, Similar to the One Proposed for a Range of Tubercle Bacilli (33).

This test enables unambiguous and rapid identification of *M. microti* isolates in order to obtain a better estimate of the overall rate of *M. microti* infections in humans and other mammalian species.

## EXAMPLE 3

## Recombinant BCG Exporting ESAT-6 Confers Enhanced Protection Against Tuberculosis

3.1 Complementation of the RD1 Locus of BCG Pasteur and *M. microti*

To construct a recombinant vaccine that secretes both ESAT-6 and CFP-10, we complemented BCG Pasteur for the RD1 region using genomic fragments spanning variable sections of the esxBA (or ESAT-6) locus from *M. tuberculosis* (FIG. 10). The RD1 deletion in BCG interrupts or removes nine CDS and affects all four transcriptional units: three are removed entirely while the fourth (Rv3867-Rv3871) is largely intact apart from the loss of 112 codons from the 3'-end of Rv3871 (FIG. 10). Transcriptome analysis of BCG, performed using cDNA probes obtained from early log phase

cultures with oligonucleotide-based microarrays, was able to detect signals at least two fold greater than background for the probes corresponding to Rv3867 to 3871 inclusive, but not for the RD1-deleted genes Rv3872 to Rv3879. This suggests that the Rv3867-3871 transcriptional unit is still active in BCG which, like *M. bovis*, also has frameshifts in the neighbouring gene, Rv3881 (FIG. 10). The RD1<sup>mic</sup> deletion of *M. microti* removes three transcriptional units completely with only gene Rv3877 remaining from the fourth. The *M. tuberculosis* clinical isolate MT56 has lost genes Rv3878-Rv3879 (Brosch, R., et al. A new evolutionary scenario for the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 99, 3684-9. (2002)) but still secretes ESAT-6 and CFP-10 (FIG. 10).

To test the hypothesis that a dedicated export machinery exists and to establish which genes were essential for creating an ESAT-6-CFP-10 secreting vaccine we assembled a series of integrating vectors carrying fragments spanning different portions of the RD1 *esx* gene cluster (FIG. 10). These integrating vectors stably insert into the attB site of the genome of tubercle bacilli. pAP34 was designed to carry only the antigenic core region encoding ESAT-6 and CFP-10, and the upstream PE and PPE genes, whereas RD1-1106 and RD1-pAP35 were selected to include the core region and either the downstream or upstream portion of the gene cluster, respectively. The fourth construct RD1-2F9 contains a ~32 kb segment from *M. tuberculosis* that stretches from Rv3861 to Rv3885 covering the entire RD1 gene cluster. We adopted this strategy of complementation with large genomic fragments to avoid polar effects that might be expected if a putative protein complex is only partially complemented in trans. In addition, a set of smaller expression constructs (pAP47, pAP48) was established in which individual genes are transcribed from a heat shock promoter (FIG. 10). Using appropriate antibodies all of these constructs were found to produce the corresponding proteins after transformation of BCG or *M. microti* (see below).

### 3.2 Several Genes of the *esx* Cluster are Required for Export of ESAT-6 and CFP-10

The four BCG::RD1 recombinants (BCG::RD1-pAP34, BCG::RD1-pAP35, BCG::RD1-2F9 and 13CG::RD1-I106) (FIG. 11) were initially tested to ensure that ESAT-6 and CFP-10 were being appropriately expressed from the respective integrated constructs. Immunoblotting of whole cell protein extracts from mid-log phase cultures of the various BCG::RD1 recombinants using an ESAT-6 monoclonal antibody or polyclonal sera for CFP-10 and the PPE68 protein Rv3373 demonstrated that all three proteins were expressed from the four constructs at levels comparable to those of *M. tuberculosis* (FIG. 11). However, striking differences were seen when the supernatants from early log-phase cultures of each recombinant were screened by Western blot for the two antigens. Although low levels of ESAT-6 and CFP-10 could be detected in the concentrated supernatant protein fractions of BCG::RD1-pAP34, BCG::RD1-pAP35 and BCG::RD1-I106 it was only with the integrated construct encompassing the entire *esx* gene cluster (BCG::RD1-2F9) that the two antigens accumulated in significant amounts. The high concentrations of ESAT-6 and CFP-10 seen in the supernatant of the recombinant BCG::RD1-2F9 were not due to a non-specific increase in permeability, or loss of cell wall material, because when the same whole cell and supernatant protein fractions were immunoblotted with serum raised against Rv3873, this protein was only localized in the cell wall of the various recombinants. As expected, when constructs were used containing *esxA* or *esxB* alone, ESAT-6 did not accumulate in the culture supernatant (data not shown).

To assess the effect of the RD1<sup>mic</sup> deletion of *M. microti* on the export of ESAT-6 and CFP-10 and subsequent antigen handling, the experiments were replicated in this genomic background. As with BCG, ESAT-6 and CFP-10 were only exported into the supernatant fraction in significant amounts if expressed in conjunction with the entire *esx* cluster (FIG. 11). The combined findings demonstrate that complementation with *esxA* or *esxB* alone is insufficient to produce a recombinant vaccine that secretes these two antigens. Rather, secretion requires expression of genes located both upstream and downstream of the antigenic core region confirming our hypothesis<sup>20</sup> that the conserved *esx* gene cluster does indeed encode functions essential for the export of ESAT-6 and CFP-10.

### 3.3 Secretion of ESAT-6 is Needed to Induce Antigen Specific T-Cell Responses

Since the classical observation that inoculation with live, but not dead BCG, confers protection against tuberculosis in animal models it has been considered that secretion of antigens is critical for maximizing protective T-cell immunity. Using our panel of recombinant vaccines we were able to test if antigen secretion was indeed essential for eliciting ESAT-6 specific T-cell responses. Groups of C57/BL6 mice were inoculated subcutaneously with one of six recombinant vaccines (BCG-pAP47, BCG-pAP48, BCG::RD1-pAP34, BCG::RD1-pAP35, BCG::RD1-I106, BCG::RD1-2F9) or with BCG transformed with the empty vector pYUB412. Three weeks following vaccination, T-cell immune responses to the seven vaccines were assessed by comparing antigen-specific splenocyte proliferation and gamma interferon (IFN- $\gamma$ ) production (FIG. 12A). As anticipated all of the vaccines generated splenocyte proliferation and IFN- $\gamma$  production in response to PPD (partially purified protein derivative) but not against an unrelated MalE control peptide indicating successful vaccination in each case. However, only splenocytes from the mice inoculated with BCG::RD1-2F9 proliferated markedly in response to the immunodominant ESAT-6 peptide (FIG. 12A). Furthermore, IFN- $\gamma$  was only detected in culture supernatants of splenocytes from mice immunized with BCG::RD1-2F9 following incubation with the ESAT-6 peptide (FIG. 12B) or recombinant CFP-10 protein (data not shown). These data demonstrate that export of the antigens is essential for stimulating specific Th1-oriented T-cells.

Further characterization of the immune responses was carried out. Splenocytes from mice immunized with BCG::RD1-2F9 or control BCG both proliferated in response to the immunodominant antigen 85A peptide (FIG. 13A). The strong splenocyte proliferation in the presence of ESAT-6 was abolished by an anti-CD4 monoclonal antibody but not by anti-CD8 indicating that the CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell subset was involved (FIG. 13B). Interestingly, as judged by *in vitro* IFN- $\gamma$  response to PPD and the ESAT peptide, subcutaneous immunization generated much stronger T-cell responses (FIG. 13C) compared to intravenous injection. After subcutaneous immunisation with BCG::RD1-2F9 strong ESAT-6 specific responses were also detected in inguinal lymph nodes (data not shown). These experiments demonstrated that the ESAT-6 T-cell immune responses to vaccination with BCG::RD1-2F9 were potent, reproducible and robust making this recombinant an excellent candidate for protection studies.

### 3.4 Protective Efficacy of BCG::RD1-2F9 in Immuno-Competent Mice

When used alone as a subunit or DNA vaccine, ESAT-6 induces levels of protection weaker than but akin to those of BCG (Brandt, L., Elbay, M., Rosenkrands, L., Lindblad, E. B. & Andersen, P. ESAT-6 subunit vaccination against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Infect. Immun.* 68, 791-795 (2000)).

Thus, it was of interest to determine if the presentation to the immune system of ESAT-6 and/or CFP-10 in the context of recombinant BCG, mimicking the presentation of the antigens during natural infection, could increase the protective efficiency of BCG. The BCG::RD1-2F9 recombinant was therefore selected for testing as a vaccine, since it was the only ESAT-6 exporting BCG that elicited vigorous antigen specific T-cell immune responses. Groups of C57BL/6 mice were inoculated intravenously with either BCG::RD1-2F9 or BCG::pYUB412 and challenged intravenously after eight weeks with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. Growth of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv in spleens and Bungs of each vaccinated cohort was compared with that of unvaccinated controls two months after infection (FIG. 14A). This demonstrated that, compared to vaccination with BCG, the BCG::RD1-2F9 vaccine inhibited growth of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv in the spleens by 0.4 log 10 CFU and was of comparable efficacy at protecting the lungs.

To investigate this enhanced protective effect against tuberculosis further we repeated the challenge experiment using the aerosol route. In this experiment antibiotic treatment was employed to clear persisting BCG from mouse organs prior to infection with *M. tuberculosis*. Two months following vaccination C57BL/6 Mice were treated with daily rifampicin/isoniazid for three weeks and then infected with 1000 CFU of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv by the respiratory route. Mice were then sacrificed after 17, 35 and 63 days and bacterial enumeration carried out on the lungs and spleen. This demonstrated that, even following respiratory infection, vaccination with BCG::RD1-2F9 was superior to vaccination with the control strain of BCG (FIG. 14B). However; growth of *M. tuberculosis* was again only inhibited strongly in the mouse spleens.

#### EXAMPLE 4

##### Protective Efficacy of BCG::RD1-2F9 in Guinea Pigs

###### 4.1 Animal Models

*M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and the different recombinant vaccines were prepared in the same Manner as for the immunological assays. For the guinea pig assays, groups of outbred female Dunkin-Hartley guinea pigs (David Hall, UK) were inoculated with  $5 \times 10^4$  CFUs by the subcutaneous route. Aerosol challenge was performed 8 weeks after vaccination using a contained Henderson apparatus and an H37Rv (NCTC 7416) suspension in order to obtain an estimated retained inhaled dose of approximately 1000 CFU/lung (Williams, A., Davies, A., Marsh, P. D., Chambers, M. A. & Hewinson, R. G. Comparison of the protective efficacy of bacille calmette-Guerin vaccination against aerosol challenge with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Mycobacterium bovis*. *Clin Infect Dis* 30 Suppl 3, S299-301. (2000)). Organs were homogenized and dilutions plated out on 7H11 agar, as for the mice experiments. Guinea pig experiments were carried out in the framework of the European Union TB vaccine development program.

###### 4.2 Results

Although experiments in mice convincingly demonstrated a superior protective efficacy of BCG::RD1 over BCG it was important to establish a similar effect in the guinea pig model of tuberculosis. Guinea pigs are exquisitely sensitive to tuberculosis, succumbing rapidly to low dose infection with *M. tuberculosis*, and develop a necrotic granulomatous pathology closer to that of human tuberculosis. Immunization of guinea pigs with BCG:RD1-2F9 was therefore compared to

conventional BCG vaccination. Groups of six guinea pigs were inoculated subcutaneously with saline, BCG or BCG::RD1-2F9. Eight weeks following inoculation the three guinea pig cohorts were challenged with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv via the aerosol route. Individual animals were weighed weekly and were killed 17 weeks after challenge or earlier if they developed signs of severe tuberculosis. Whereas all unvaccinated guinea pigs failed to thrive and were euthanised before the last time-point because of overwhelming disease, both the BCG- and recombinant BCG::RD1-2F9-vaccinated animals progressively gained weight and were clinically well when killed on termination of the experiment (FIG. 15A). This indicated that although the BCG::RD1-2F9 recombinant is more virulent in severely immunodeficient mice (Pym, A. S., Brodin, P., Brosch, R., Huerre, M. & Cole, S. T. Loss of RD1 contributed to the attenuation of the live tuberculosis vaccines *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG and *Mycobacterium microti*. *Mol. Microbiol.* 46, 709-717 (2002)). There is no increased pathogenesis in the highly susceptible guinea pig model of tuberculosis. Moreover, when the bacterial loads in the spleens of the vaccinated animals were compared there was a greater than ten-fold reduction in the number of CFU recovered from the animals immunized with BCG::RD1-2F9 when compared to BCG (FIG. 15B). Interestingly, there was no significant difference between the number of CFU obtained from the lungs of the two vaccinated groups indicating that the organ-specific enhanced protection observed in mice vaccinated with BCG::RD1-2F9 was also seen with guinea pigs. This marked reduction of bacterial loads in the spleens of BCG::RD1-2F9 immunized animals was also reflected in the gross pathology. Visual examination of the spleens showed that tubercles were much larger and more numerous on the surface of the BCG-vaccinated guinea pigs (FIG. 15C). These results demonstrate that the recombinant vaccine BCG::RD1-2F9 conveys enhanced protection to an aerosol challenge with *M. tuberculosis* in two distinct animal models.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSION

Tuberculosis is still one of the leading infectious causes of death in the world despite a decade of improving delivery of treatment and control strategies (Dye, C., Scheele, S., Dolin, P., Pathania, V. & Raviglione, M. C. Consensus statement. Global burden of tuberculosis: estimated incidence, prevalence, and mortality by country. WHO Global Surveillance and Monitoring Project. *Jama* 282, 677-86, (1999)). Reasons for the recalcitrance of this pandemic are multi-factorial but include the modest efficacy of the widely used vaccine, BCG. Two broad approaches can be distinguished for the development of improved tuberculosis vaccines (Baldwin, S. L., et al. Evaluation of new vaccines in the mouse and guinea pig model of tuberculosis. *Infection & Immunity* 66, 2951-9 (1998), Kaufmann, S. H., How can immunology contribute to the control of tuberculosis, *Nature Rev Immunol* 1, 20-30. (2001) and Young, D. B. & Fruth, U. in *New Generation Vaccines* (eds. Levine, M., Woodrow, G., Kaper, J. & Cobon G S) 631-645 (Marcel Dekker, 1997)). These are the development of subunit vaccines based on purified protein antigens or new live vaccines that stimulate a broader range of immune responses. Although a growing list of individual or combination subunit vaccines, and hybrid proteins, have been tested none has yet proved superior to BCG in animal models (Baldwin, S. L., et al., 1998). Similarly, new attenuated vaccines derived from virulent *M. tuberculosis* have yet to out-perform BCG (Jackson, M., et al. Persistence and protective efficacy of a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* auxotroph vaccine. *Infect. Immun.* 67, 2867-73. (1999) and Hondalus, M. K., et al.,

Attenuation of and protection induced by a leucine auxotroph of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Infect. Immun.* 68, 2888-98. (2000)). Interestingly, the only vaccine that appears to surpass BCG is a BCG recombinant over expressing antigen 85A (Horwitz, M. A., Harth, G., Dillon, B. J. & Maslesa-Galic, S., Recombinant bacillus calmette-guerin (BCG) vaccines expressing the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* 30-kDa major secretory protein induce greater protective immunity against tuberculosis than conventional BCG vaccines in a highly susceptible animal model. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 97, 13853-8. (2000)). The basis for this vaccine was the notion that over-expression of an immunodominant T-cell antigen could quantitatively enhance the BCG-elicited immune response.

In frame with the invention, we were able to show that restoration of the RD1 locus did indeed improve the protective efficacy of BCG and defines a genetic modification that should be included in new recombinant BCG vaccines. Moreover, we were able to demonstrate two further findings that will be crucial for the development of a live vaccine against tuberculosis. First, we have identified the genetic basis of secretion for the ESAT-6 family of immunodominant T-cell antigens, and second, we show that export of these antigens from the cytosol is essential for maximizing their antigenicity.

The extra-cellular proteins of *M. tuberculosis* have been extensively studied and shown to be a rich source of protective antigens (Sorensen, A. L., Nagai, S., Houen, G., Andersen, P. & Andersen, A. B., Purification and characterization of a low-molecular-mass T-cell antigen secreted by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Infect. Immun.* 63, 1710-7 (1995), SkjØt, R. L. V., et al., Comparative evaluation of low-molecular-mass proteins from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* identifies members of the ESAT-6 family as immunodominant T-cell antigens. *Infect. Immun.* 68, 214-220 (2000), Horwitz, M. A., Lee, B. W., Dillon, B. J. & Harth, G., Protective immunity against tuberculosis induced by vaccination with major extracellular proteins of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 92, 1530-4 (1995) and Boesen, H., Jensen, B. N., Wilcke, T. & Andersen, P. Human T-cell responses to secreted antigen fractions of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Infect. Immun.* 63, 1491-7 (1995)). Despite this it remains a mystery how some of these proteins, that lack conventional secretion signals, are exported from the cytosol, a unique problem in *M. tuberculosis* given the impermeability and waxy nature of the mycobacterial cell envelope. Although two secA orthologues were identified in the genome sequence of *M. tuberculosis* (Cole, S.T., et al., Deciphering the biology of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from the complete genome sequence. *Nature* 393, 537-544 (1998)), no genes for obvious type I, II, or III protein secretion systems were detected, like those that mediate the virulence of many Gram-negative bacterial pathogens (Finlay, B. B. & Falkow, S., Common themes in microbial pathogenicity revisited. *Microbiol. Mol. Biol. Rev.* 61, 136-169 (1997)). This suggested that novel secretion systems might exist. An in silico analysis of the *M. tuberculosis* proteome identified a set of proteins and genes whose inferred functions, genomic organization and strict association with the esx gene family suggested that they could constitute such a system (Tekaiia, F., et al., Analysis of the proteome of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in silico. *Tubercle Lung Disease* 79, 329-342 (1999)). Our results provide the first empirical evidence that this gene cluster is essential for the normal export of ESAT-6 and CFP-10.

The antigen genes, esxBA, lie at the center of the conserved gene cluster. Bioinformatics and comparative genomics predicted that both the conserved upstream genes Rv3868-

Rv3871, as well as the downstream genes Rv3876-Rv3877, would be required for secretion (FIG. 1) and strong experimental support for this prediction is provided here. Our experiments show that only when BCG or *M. microti* are complemented with the entire cluster is maximal export of ESAT-6 and CFP-10 obtained. This suggests that at least Rv3871 and either Rv3876 or Rv3877 are indeed essential for the normal secretion of ESAT-6 as these are the only conserved genes absent or disrupted in BCG which are not complemented by RD1-I106 or RD1-pAP35. These genes encode a large transmembrane protein with ATPase activity, an ATP-dependent chaperone and an integral membrane protein, functional predictions compatible with them being part of a multi-protein complex involved in the translocation of polypeptides. Amongst the proteins encoded by the esx cluster Rv3871 and Rv3877 are highly conserved, as orthologues have been identified in the more streamlined clusters found in other actinomycetes, further supporting their direct role in secretion (Gey Van Pittius, N. C., et al. The ESAT-6 gene cluster of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and other high G+C Gram-positive bacteria. *Genome Biol* 2, 44.1-44.18 (2001)). It has been shown recently that ESAT-6 and CFP-10 form a heterodimer in vitro (Renshaw, P. S. et al. Conclusive evidence that the major T-cell antigens of the *M. tuberculosis* complex ESAT-6 and CFP-10 form a tight, 1:1 complex and characterisation of the structural properties of ESAT-6, CFP-10 and the ESAT-6-CFP-10 complex: implications for pathogenesis and virulence. *J Biol Chem* 8,8 (2002)) but it is not known whether dimerization precedes translocation across the cell membrane or occurs at a later stage in vivo. In either case, chaperone or protein clamp activity is likely to be required to assist dimer formation or to prevent premature complexes arising as is well documented for type III secretion systems (Page, A. L. & Parsot, C. Chaperones of the type III secretion pathway: jacks of all trades. *Mol Microbiol* 46, 1-11. (2002)). These, and other questions concerning the precise roles of the individual components of the ESAT-6 secretory apparatus, can now be addressed experimentally using the tools developed here.

The second major finding of the invention is that the secretion of ESAT-6 (and probably CFP-10) is critical for inducing maximal T-cell responses although other RD1-encoded proteins may also contribute such as the PPE68 protein (Rv3873) which is located in the cell envelope. We show that even though whole cell expression levels of ESAT-6 are comparable amongst our vaccines (FIG. 2), only the vaccine strain exporting ESAT-6, via an intact secretory apparatus, elicits powerful T-cell responses. Surprisingly, even the recombinants RD1-pAP47 and RD1-pAP48, that overexpress ESAT-6 intracellularly, did not generate detectable ESAT-6 specific T-cell responses. Although antigen secretion has long been recognized as, important for inducing immunity against *M. tuberculosis*, and is often used to explain why killed BCG offers no protection, this is one of the first formal demonstrations of its importance. BCG, like *M. tuberculosis* resides in the phagosome, where secreted antigens have ready access to the MHC class II antigen processing pathway, essential for inducing IFN- $\gamma$  producing CD4 T-cells considered critical for protection against tuberculosis. Further understanding of the mechanism of ESAT-6 secretion could allow the development of BCG recombinants that deliver other antigens in the same way:

The main aim of the present invention was to qualitatively enhance the antigenicity of BCG. So, having assembled a recombinant vaccine that secreted the T-cell antigens ESAT-6 and CFP-10, and shown that it elicited powerful CD4 T-cell immunity against at least ESAT-6 and CFP-10, the next step

was to rigorously test its efficacy in animal models of tuberculosis. In three distinct models, including two involving respiratory challenge, we were able to demonstrate that the ESAT-6-CFP-10 secreting recombinant improved protection when compared to a BCG control, although this effect was restricted to the spleen. This is probably due to the fact that the enhanced immunity induced by the two additional antigens is insufficient to abort the primary infection but does significantly reduce the dissemination of bacteria from the lung. The lack of protection afforded to the lung, the portal of entry for *M. tuberculosis*, does not prevent BCG::RD1-2F9 from being a promising vaccine candidate. Primary tuberculosis occurs in the middle and lower lobes and is rarely symptomatic (Garay, S. M. in *Tuberculosis* (eds. Rom, W. N. & Garay, S. M.) 373-413 (Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1996)). The bacteria need to reach the upper lobes, the commonest site of disease, by haematogenous spread. Therefore, a vaccine that inhibits dissemination of *M. tuberculosis* from the primary site of infection would probably have major impact on the outcome of tuberculosis.

Recombinant BCG vaccines have definite advantages over other vaccination strategies in that they are inexpensive, easy to produce and convenient to store. However, despite an unrivalled and enviable safety record concerns remain and BCG is currently not administered to individuals with HIV infection. As shown above, the recombinant BCG::RD1-2F9 grows more rapidly in Severe Combined Immunodeficient (SCID) mice, an extreme model of immunodeficiency, than its parental BCG strain. However, in both immunocompetent mice and guinea pigs we have not observed any increased pathology only a slight increase in persistence which may be beneficial, since the declining efficacy of BCG with serial passage has been attributed to an inadvertent increase in its attenuation (Behr, M. A. & Small, P. M., Has BCG attenuated to impotence *Nature* 389, 133-4. (1997)).

Ultimately, the robust enhancement in protection we have observed with the reincorporation of the RD1 locus is a compelling reason to include this genetic modification in any recombinant BCG vaccine, even if this may require the need for a balancing attenuating mutation.

In summary, the data presented here show that, in addition to its increased persistence, BCG::RD1-2F9 induces specific T-cell memory and enhances immune responses to other endogenous Th1 antigens such as the mycoloyl transferase, antigen 85A.

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## SEQUENCE LISTING

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<210> SEQ ID NO 3
<211> LENGTH: 3909
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: RD1-AP34 (a 3909 bp fragment of the M.
tuberculosis H37Rv genome)

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<400> SEQUENCE: 3

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<210> SEQ ID NO 4
<211> LENGTH: 324
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3861

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<400> SEQUENCE: 4

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<210> SEQ ID NO 5
<211> LENGTH: 348
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3862c-whiB6

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<400> SEQUENCE: 5

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<210> SEQ ID NO 6
<211> LENGTH: 1176
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence RV3863

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<400> SEQUENCE: 6

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caaccatcag cggacctgtc ggacgaccgc gcgcacaacg ctgcgccggt cgcaccggac 480
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<210> SEQ ID NO 7
<211> LENGTH: 1206
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3864

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<400> SEQUENCE: 7

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<210> SEQ ID NO 8
<211> LENGTH: 309
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

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&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3865

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 8

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&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 9

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 849

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3866

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 9

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gtaaccatcg acggcatggt ggtgatcgcc gatcggttac acctggttga tttccctgtc    120
acgcttggga ttggccgcaa tatcccgcaa gaggatctgc gagacatcgt ctgggaacag    180
gtgcagcgtg acctcacagc gcaaggggtg ctcgacctcc acggggagcc ccaaccgacg    240
gtcgcggaga tggtcgaaac cctgggcagg ccagatcggg ccttggaggg tcgctggtgg    300
cggcgcgaca ttggcggcgt catggtgcgc ttcgctcgtg gccgcagggg cgaccgccat    360
gtgatcgcgg cgcgcgacgg cgacatgctg gtgctgcagt tgggtggcgc gcaggtcggc    420
ttggcgggca tggtgacagc ggtgctgggg cccgccgaac ccgccaacgt cgaaccctg    480
acgggtgtgg caaccgagct agccgaatgc acaaccgctg cccaattgac gcaatacggg    540
atcgaccggg cctcggcccc cgtctatgcc gagatcgtgg gtaaccggac cggctgggtg    600
gagatcgttg ccagccaacg ccaccocggc ggcaccacga cgcagaccga cgcgcgct    660
ggcgtcctgg actccaagct cggtaggctg gtgctgcttc cccgccgtgt tggaggcgac    720
ctgtacggaa gtttctctgc cggcactcag cagaacttgg agcgtgcgct ggacggcttg    780
ctagagctgc tccctcgggg cgcttggtga gatcacacct cagatcacgc acaagcctcc    840
tcccagggc                                     849

```

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 10

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 552

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3867

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 10

```

atggtggacc cgcgggcaa cgacgacgac cacggtgatc tgcagccct cgatttctcc    60
gccgcccaca ccaacgaggc gtcgcgctg gacgccttag acgactatgc gccggtgcag    120
accgatgacg ccgaaggcga cctggacgcc ctccatgcgc tcaccgaacg cgaagaggag    180
cggagctgg agttgttca cgtgaccaac cctcaagggt cgggtgctgg ctcaaccctg    240
atggacggca gaatccagca cgtcgagctg acggacaagg cgaccagcat gtccgaagcg    300
cagctggccg acgagatctt cgttattgcc gatctggccc gccaaaaggc gcgggcgctg    360
cagtacagct tcatggtgga gaacatcggt gaactgaccg acgaagacgc agaaggcagc    420

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```

gccctgctgc ggggaattcgt ggggatgacc ctgaatctgc cgacgccgga agaggctgcc 480
gcagccgaag ccgaagtgtt cgccaccgcg tacgatgtcg actacacctc ccggtacaag 540
gccgatgact ga 552

```

```

<210> SEQ ID NO 11
<211> LENGTH: 1722
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3868

```

```

<400> SEQUENCE: 11

```

```

atgactgate gcttgcccag tctgttcgaa agcgcctca gcatgttgcc gatgtcggag 60
gcgcggtcgc tagatctgtt caccgagatc accaactacg acgaatccgc ttgcgacgca 120
tggatcggcc ggatccgggt tggggacacc gaccgggtga cgctgtttcg cgctggtat 180
tcgcccgcga atttcggaca gttgtcggga tcggtccaga tctcgatgag cactgtaaac 240
gccaggattg ccatcggggg gctgtacggc gatatcacct acccggtcac ctgcccgcta 300
gcatcacca tgggctttgc cgcattgcgag gcagcgaag gcaattacgc cgacccatg 360
gaggccttag aggccgcccc ggtcgcgggt tccgagcacc tgggtggcgtg gatgaaggcg 420
gttgtctacg gcgcccgcga acgctggacc gacgtgatcg accaggtaa gagtgctggg 480
aaatggccgg acaagttttt ggccggcgcg gccgggtgtg cgacgggggt tgcgcggca 540
aacctggcct tgttcaccga agccgaacgc cgactcacg aggccaacga ctgccccgc 600
ggtgaggcgt gtgcgcgcgc catcgctgg tatctggcga tggcacggcg cagccagggc 660
aacgaaagcg ccgcggtggc gctgtggaa tggttacaga ccaactaccc cgagccaaa 720
gtggctcgg cgctgaagga tccctoctac cggtgaaga cgaccaccgc cgaacagatc 780
gcatcccgcg ccgatccctg ggatccgggc agtgtcgtga ccgacaactc cggccgggag 840
cggctgctcg ccgagcccca agccgaacte gaccgcaaaa ttgggtcac ccgggttaa 900
aatcagattg aacgctaccg cgcggcgcg ctgatggccc gggtcgcgc cgccaagggt 960
atgaaggctc cccagcccag caagcacatg atcttcaccg gaccgcccgg tacccgcaag 1020
accagatcg cgcgggtggt ggccaatac ctggccggct taggcgtcat tgccgaacct 1080
aaactcgtcg agacgtcgcg caaggacttc gtcgcccagt acgaggggca atcggcggtc 1140
aagaccgcta agacgatcga tcaggcgtg ggcggggtgc tttcatcga cagggttat 1200
gcgctggtgc aggaaagaga cggccgcacc gatccgttcg gtcaagaggc gctggacacg 1260
ctgctggcgc ggatggagaa cgaccgggac cggctggtgg tgatcatcgc cgggtacagc 1320
tccgacatag atcggctgct ggaaaccaac gagggctctg ggtcgcggtt cgccaactcg 1380
atcgagttcg acacctatc ccccaggaa ctctcagaga tcgccaactg cattgcccgt 1440
gctgatgatt cggcgttgac cgcagaggcg gccgagaact ttcttcaggc cgccaagcag 1500
ttggagcagc gcatgttcgc cggccggcgc gccctggacg tcgccggcaa cggtcggtat 1560
gcgcccagc tgggtggaggc cagcgcgcaa tgccgggaca tgctctagc ccaggtcctc 1620
gatatcgaca cctcgcagca agaccggctt cgcgagatca acggctcaga tatggcggag 1680
gctatcgccg cgggtgcacgc acacctcaac atgagagaat ga 1722

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<210> SEQ ID NO 12
<211> LENGTH: 1443
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis

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&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3869

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 12

```

atggggcttc gcctcaccac caaggttcag gttagcggct ggcgttttct gctgcgccgg      60
ctcgaacacg ccatcgtgcg cggggacacc cggatgtttg acgaccgct gcagttctac      120
agccgctcga tcgctcttgg catcgtcgtc gcggtcctga ttctggcggg tgccgcgctg      180
ctggcgtaact tcaaaccaca aggcaaacct ggccggcacca gcctgttcac cgaccgcgcg      240
accaaccagc tttacgtgct gctgtccgga cagttgcatc cggctctaaa cctgacttcg      300
gcgcggctgg tgctgggcaa tccggccaac ccggccaccg tgaagtctc cgaactgagc      360
aagctgccga tgggccagac cgttggaaac cccggcgccc cctacgccac gcctgtttcg      420
gcgggcagca cctcgtatcg gaccctatgc gacaccgtcg cccgagccga ctccaattcc      480
ccggtagtgc agaccgcggt catcgcgatg ccgttggaga tcgatgcttc gatcgatccg      540
ctccagtcac acgaagcggg gctggtgtcc taccagggcg aaacctggat cgtcacaact      600
aagggaagcc acgccataga tctgaccgac cgcgccctca cctcgtcgat ggggataacc      660
gtgacggcca ggccaacccc gatctcggag ggcatgttca acgcgctgcc tgatatgggg      720
ccttgccagc tgccgcggat accggcgcgg ggccgcgcca attcgtttgg cctacctgat      780
gatctagtga tcggatcggg cttccagatc cacaccgaca agggcccgca atactatgtg      840
gtgctgcccc acggcatcgc gcaggtaaac gcgacaaccg ctgcggcgct gcgcgccacc      900
caggcgcacg ggctggtcgc gccaccggca atggtgcccc gtctggtcgt cagaatcgcc      960
gaacgggtat acccctcacc gctaccgat gaaccgctca agatcgtgtc ccggccgcag     1020
gatccccgcg tgtgctggtc atggcaacgc agcgcggcg accagtcgcc gcagtcaacg     1080
gtgctgtccg gccggcatct gccgatatcg cctcagcga tgaacatggg gatcaagcag     1140
atccacggga cggcgaccgt ttacctcgac ggccgaaaat tcgtggcact gcaatcccc     1200
gatcctcgat acaccgaatc gatgtactac atcgatccac agggcgtgcg ttatggggtg     1260
cctaaccgag agacagccaa gtcgctgggc ctgagttcac cccaaaacgc gccctgggag     1320
atcgttcgtc tcctggtcga cggtcgggtg ctgtcgaag atgccgact gctcgagcac     1380
gacacgctgc ccgctgacct tagccccga aaagtccccg ccggagcctc cggagcccc     1440
tga                                                                                   1443

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&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 13

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 2244

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3870

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 13

```

atgacgacca agaagttcac tcccaccatt acccgtggcc cccggttgac cccggcgag      60
atcagcctca cggcccccga tgacctgggc atcgacatcc caccgtcggg cgtccaaaag     120
atccttccct acgtgatggg tggcgccatg ctcggcatga tcgccatcat ggtggccggc     180
ggcaccagge agctgtcggc gtacatgttg atgatgccgc tgatgatgat cgtgatgatg     240
gtcggcggtc tggccggtag caccgggtgt ggccgcaaga aggtgcccga aatcaacgcc     300
gaccgcaagg agtacctcgc gtatttgcca ggactacgca cccgagtgac gtcctcggcc     360
acctctcagg tggcgttctt ctcctaccac gcaccgcac ccgaggatct gttgtcgatc     420
gtcggcacc caccggcagt gtccccggcg gccaacgccg acttctatgc ggccaccgca     480

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```

atcggatcgt gtgaccagcc ggcgggtggat cgattattga agccggccgt cggcggggag 540
ttggccgccc ccagcgcagc acctcagccg ttcttgagc cggtcagtca tatgtgggtg 600
gtcaagtttc tacgaacca tggattgatc catgactgcc cgaactgct gcaactccgt 660
acctttccga ctatcgcgat cggcggggac ttggcggggg cagccggcct gatgacggcg 720
atgatctgtc acctagccgt gttccacca cggacctgc tgcagatccg ggtgctcacc 780
gaggaacccc acgaccccga ctggctctgg ctcaaatggc ttccgcacgt acagcaccag 840
accgaaaccc atgcggccgg gtccacccgg ctgatcttca cgcgccagga aggtctgtcg 900
gacctggccc cgcgcggggc acacgcaccc gattcgcttc ccggcggccc ctacgtagtc 960
gtcgtcgacc tgaccggcgg caaggctgga ttcccgcggc acggtagggc cgggtgcaac 1020
gtgatcacgt tgggcaacca tcgcggctcg gctaccgca tcagggtgca cgaggatggg 1080
acggctgatg accggtctcc taaccaatcg tttcggcagg tgacatcggc caccgatcgg 1140
atgtcgcggc agcaagccag ccgtatcggc cgaaggttg ccggatggc catcacgggc 1200
accatctctg acaagacgtc gcgggtccag aagaaggtgg ccaccgactg gcaccagctg 1260
gtcggctgcg aaagtgtcga ggagataaca ccttcccgt ggaggatgta caccgacacc 1320
gaccgtgacc ggctaagat cccgtttggt catgaactaa agaccggcaa cgtcatgtac 1380
ctggacatca aagagggcgc ggaattcggc gccggaccgc acggcatgct catcgggacc 1440
acgggtctct ggaagtccga attctcgc accctgatcc tgcgctggt ggcaatgact 1500
catccagatc aggtgaatct cctgctcacc gacttcaaag gtggttcaac ctctctggga 1560
atggaaaagc ttccgcacac tgccgctgtc gtcaccaaca tggccgagga agccgagctc 1620
gtcagccgga tggcgaggt gttgaccgga gaactcgatc ggcgccagtc gatcctccga 1680
caggccggga tgaagtccg cgcggccgga gccctgtccg gcgtggccga atacgagaag 1740
taccgcgaac gcggtgccga cctaccccgc ctgccaacgc tttctgctgt cgtcgacgag 1800
ttcgcggcgc tgttgagag tcaccggac ttcacgggc tgttcgaccg gatctgccc 1860
gtcggcgggt cgctgagggt ccatctgctg ctggctacc agtcgctgca gaccggcgg 1920
gttcgcatcg aaaaactgga gccaaacctg acatatcga tcgcattgctg caccaccagc 1980
tctcatgaat ccaagcgggt aatcggcaca ccggaggcgc agtacatcac caacaaggag 2040
agcgggtgct ggtttctccc ggtcggcatg gaagaccgg tcaagttcag caccttctac 2100
atcagtgggc catacatgcc gccggcggca ggcgtcgaac ccaatggtga agccggaggg 2160
cccggccaac agaccactag acaagccgcg cgcattcaca ggttcaccgc ggcaccgggt 2220
ctcggaggag cgcgcacacc gtga 2244

```

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 14

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 1776

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3871

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 14

```

atgactgctg aaccggaagt acggacgctg cgcgaggttg tgctggacca gctcggcact 60
gctgaatcgc gtgctgtaaa gatgtggctg ccgcccgtga ccaatccggc cccgctcaac 120
gagctcatcg cccgtgatcg gcgacaaccc ctgcgatttg ccctggggat catggatgaa 180
ccgcgccgcc atctacagga tgtgtggggc gtagacgttt ccggggccgg cggcaacatc 240
ggtattgggg gcgcacctca aaccgggaag tcgacgctac tgcagacgat ggtgatgtcg 300

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```

gccgccgcca cacactcacc gcgcaacggt cagttctatt gcategacct aggtggcggc 360
gggctgatct atctcgaaaa ccttcacac gtcggtgggg tagccaatcg gtcgagccc 420
gacaaggcca accgggtggt cgcagagatg caagccgtca tgcggcaacg ggaaccacc 480
ttcaaggaac accgagtggg ctcgatcggg atgtaccggc agctgctga cgatccaagt 540
caaccggttg cgtccgatcc atacggcgac gtctttctga tcatcgacgg atggcccgg 600
ttgtcggcg agttccccga ccttgagggg caggttcaag atctggccgc ccaggggctg 660
gcgttcggcg tccacgtcat catctccacg ccacgctgga cagagctgaa gtcgctgtt 720
cgcgactacc tcggcaccaa gatcgagttc cggcttggtg acgtcaatga aaccagatc 780
gaccggatta ccgcgagat cccggcgaat cgtccgggtc gggcagtgct gatggaaaag 840
caccatctga tgatcggcgt gccaggttc gacggcgtgc acagcgcga taacctggtg 900
gaggcgatca ccgcgggggt gacgcagatc gcttcccagc acaccgaaca ggcacctccg 960
gtcggggtcc tcgcggagcg tatccacctg cacgaactcg acccgaacc gccgggacca 1020
gagtcgact accgcactcg ctgggagatt ccgatcggct tgcgcgagac ggaactgacg 1080
ccggctcact gccacatgca cacgaaccg cacctactga tcttcggtgc ggccaaatcg 1140
ggcaagacga ccattgcccc cgcgatcgcg cgcgccattt gtgccgaaa cagtccccag 1200
cagtgccggt tcatgctcgc ggactaccgc tcgggcctgc tggacgcggt gccggacacc 1260
catctgctgg gcgccggcgc gatcaaccgc aacagcgcgt cgctagacga ggccgttcaa 1320
gcaactggcg tcaacctgaa gaagcggttg ccgcgcgacc acctgacgac ggcgcagcta 1380
cgctcgcgt cgtggtggag cggatttgac gtcgtgcttc tggtcgacga ttggcacatg 1440
atcgtgggtg ccgccggggg gatgcgcgcg atggcaccgc tggccccgtt attgccggcg 1500
gcccagata tcgggttgca catcattgct acctgtcaga tgagccaggc ttacaaggca 1560
accatggaca agttcgtcgc gcgccattc gggtcggcg ctcgcacaat gttccttctg 1620
ggcgagaagc aggaattccc atccagtga ttcaaggcca agcggcgccc cctggccag 1680
gcatttctcg tctcgcgaga cggcaagag gtcattccagg cccctacat cgagcctcca 1740
gaagaagtgt tcgcagcacc cccaagcgc ggttaa 1776

```

```

<210> SEQ ID NO 15
<211> LENGTH: 297
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: PE coding sequence (Rv3872)

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```

<400> SEQUENCE: 15

```

```

atggaaaaaa tgtcacatga tccgatcgt gccgacattg gcacgcaagt gagcgacaac 60
gctctgcacg gcgtgacggc cggctcgacg gcgctgacgt cggtgaccgg gctggttccc 120
gccccggcgg atgaggtctc gcaccaagcg gcgacggcgt tccatcggga gggcatccaa 180
ttgtggctt ccaatgcatc ggcccaagac cagctccacc gtgcgggcca agcgggtccag 240
gacgtgcccc gcacctattc gcaaatcgac gacggcgccg ccggcgtctt cgccgaa 297

```

```

<210> SEQ ID NO 16
<211> LENGTH: 1104
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: PPE coding sequence (Rv3873)

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<400> SEQUENCE: 16

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atgctgtggc acgcaatgcc accggagcta aataccgcac ggctgatggc cggcgcgggt    60
ccggctccaa tgcttgccgc ggccgcggga tggcagacgc ttctggcggc tctggacgct   120
caggccgtcg agttgaccgc gcgcctgaac tctctgggag aagcctggac tggaggtggc   180
agcgacaagg cgcttgccgc tgcaacgccg atggtggtct ggctacaaac cgcgtcaaca   240
caggccaaga cccgtgcatg gcaggcgacg gcgcaagccg cggcatacac ccaggccatg   300
gccacgacgc cgtcgtgccc ggagatgcgc gcccaaccaca tcaccaggc cgtccttacg   360
gccaccaact tcttcggtat caacaogatc cogatcgcgt tgaccgagat ggattatttc   420
atccgtatgt ggaaccaggc agccctggca atggaggtct accaggccga gaccgcggtt   480
aacacgcttt tcgagaagct cgagccgatg gcgtcgatcc ttgatcccgg cgcgagccag   540
agcacgacga acccgatcct cggaatgccc tcccctggca gctcaacacc ggttggccag   600
ttgccgccgg cggctaccca gaccctcggc caactgggtg agatgagcgg cccgatgcag   660
cagctgaccc agccgctgca gcaggtgacg tcgttggtca gccaggtggg cggcacccggc   720
ggcggaacc cagccgacga ggaagccgcg cagatgggccc tgctcggcac cagtccgctg   780
tcgaaccatc cgtctgctgg tggatcaggc cccagcgcgg gcgcgggcct gctgcgcgcg   840
gagtcgctac ctggcgcagg tgggtcgttg acccgcacgc cgtctgatgc tcagctgatc   900
gaaaagccgg ttgccccctc ggtgatgccg gcggctgctg ccggatcgtc ggcgacgggt   960
ggcgccgctc cgggtgggtgc gggagcgatg ggccagggtg cgcaatccgg cggctccacc  1020
aggccgggtc tggtcgcgcc ggcaccgctc gcgcaggagc gtgaagaaga cgacgaggac  1080
gactgggacg aagaggacga ctgg                                     1104

```

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<210> SEQ ID NO 17
<211> LENGTH: 300
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: CFP-10 coding sequence (Rv3874)

```

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<400> SEQUENCE: 17

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```

atggcagaga tgaagaccga tgccgctacc ctccgcagg aggcaggtaa ttctgagcgg    60
atctccggcg acctgaaaac ccagatcgac caggtggagt cgacggcagg ttctgttcag   120
ggccagtggc gcggcgcggc ggggacggcc gcccaggccg cggtggtgcg cttccaagaa   180
gcagccaata agcagaagca ggaactcgac gagatctcga cgaatattcg tcaggccggc   240
gtccaatact cgagggccga cgaggagcag cagcaggcgc tgcctcgcga aatgggcttc   300

```

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<210> SEQ ID NO 18
<211> LENGTH: 285
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: ESAT-6 coding sequence (Rv3875)

```

```

<400> SEQUENCE: 18

```

```

atgacagagc agcagtggaa ttctgcgggt atcgaggccg cggcaagcgc aatccaggga    60
aatgtcacgt ccattcattc cctccttgac gaggggaagc agtccctgac caagctcgcg   120
ggcgcctggg gcggtagcgg ttcggaggcg taccagggtg tccagcaaaa atgggacgcc   180
acggctaccg agctgaacaa cgcgctgcag aacctggcgc ggacgatcag cgaagccggg   240
caggcaatgg cttcgaccga aggcaacgct actgggatgt tcgca                                     285

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<210> SEQ ID NO 19
<211> LENGTH: 2001
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3876

<400> SEQUENCE: 19
atggcgccg actacgaaa gctcttccg cgcacgaag gtatggaag tccggacgat    60
atggcagcg agccgttctt cgaccccagt gcttcgtttc cgccggcgcc cgcacatcgca    120
aacctaccga agcccaacgg ccagactccg cccccgacgt cgcacgaact gtcggagcgg    180
ttcgtgtcgg ccccgccgcc gccaccccca cccccacctc cgctccgccc aactccgatg    240
ccgatcgccg caggagagcc gccctcgccg gaaccggcgg catctaaacc acccacaccc    300
cccattgccc tcgcccggacc cgaacgggcc ccacccaaac caccacaccc ccccatgccc    360
atcgccggac ccgaaccggc cccacccaaa ccacccacac ctccgatgcc catcgccgga    420
cctgcaccca ccccaaccga atcccagttg gcgcccccca gaccaccgac accacaaaag    480
ccaaccggag cgcgcagca accggaatca cggcgccccc acgtaccctc gcacgggcca    540
catcaacccc ggcgaccgc accagcaccg ccctgggcaa agatgccaat cggcgaaccc    600
ccgcccgcgc cgtccagacc gtctgcgtcc ccggccgaac caccgaccgg gctgcccccc    660
caaacctccc gacgtgcgcg ccgggggtcac cgctatcgca cagacaccga acgaaacgtc    720
gggaaggtag caactggtcc atccatccag gcgcggtgc gggcagagga agcatccggc    780
gcgcagctcg ccccccgaac ggagccctcg ccagcgccgt tgggccaacc gagatcgtat    840
ctggtcccg ccacccgccc cgcgcgaca gaacctcccc ccagcccctc gccgcagcgc    900
aactccggtc ggcggtccga gcgacgcgtc caccocgatt tagccgcca acatgcccgc    960
gcgcaacctg attcaattac ggccgcaacc actggcggtc gtcgccgcaa gcgtgcagcg    1020
ccgatctcg acgcgacaca gaaatcctta aggcggcgcg ccaaggggcc gaaggtgaag    1080
aaggtgaagc cccagaaaac gaaggccacg aagccgcccc aagtgggtgc gcagcgcgcc    1140
tggcgacatt ggggtgatgc gttgaocgca atcaacctgg gcctgtcacc cgacgagaag    1200
tacgagctgg acctgcacgc tcgagtccgc cgcaatcccc gcgggtcgta tcagatcgcc    1260
gtcgtcggtc tcaaagggtg ggctggcaaa accacgctga cagcagcgtt ggggtcgacg    1320
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ctcgcgatc gggtagggcg acaatcgggc gcgaccatcg ctgatgtgct tgcagaaaaa    1440
gagctgtcgc actacaacga catccgcgca cactagcgc tcaatgcggt caatctggaa    1500
gtgctgcccg caccggaata cagctcggcg cagcgcgcgc tcagcgacgc cgactggcat    1560
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ttcttcgacc cgctgacccc cggcgtgctg tccacggtgt ccggtgctgt ggtcgtggca    1680
agtgtctcaa tcgacggcgc acaacaggcg tcggtcgcgt tggactggtt gcgcaacaac    1740
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cccaatgtcg cagttaaaga cctggtgcgg catttcgaac agcaagtca acccgccgg    1860
gtcgtggtca tgccgtggga caggcacatt gcggccgga ccgagatttc actcgacttg    1920
ctcgacccta tetacaagcg caaggtcctc gaattggcgg cagcgcctac cgacgatttc    1980
gagagggctg gacgtcgttg a                                2001

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<210> SEQ ID NO 20
<211> LENGTH: 1536

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<212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3877

<400> SEQUENCE: 20

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ttgagcgcac ctgctgttgc tgctggtcct accgccgcgg gggcaaccgc tgcgcggcct    60
gccaccaccg gggtagcatg cctgaccggc agacggatga ccgatttggg actgccagcg   120
gcggtgcccga tggaaactta tattgacgac accgtcgcgg tgctttccga ggtggtggaa   180
gacacgccgg ctgatgtact cggcggtctc gactttaccg cgcaaggcgt gtgggcgttc   240
gctcgtcccc gatcgcggcc gctgaagctc gaccagtca ctcgatgacgc cggggtggtc   300
gacgggtcac tgctgactct ggtgtcagtc agtcgcaccg agcgctaccg accggtggtc   360
gaggatgtca tcgacgcgat cgccgtgctt gacgagtca ctcgagttcg cgcacggca   420
ttgaatcgct ttgtgggggc ggcgatcccc cttttgaccg cgcccgtcat cgggatggcg   480
atgccccggt ggtgggaaac tgggcgtagc ttgtggtggc cgttggcgat tggcatcctg   540
gggatcgcct tgctggtagg cagcttcgtc gcgaacaggt tctaccagag cggccacctg   600
gccgagtgcc tactggtcac gacgtatctg ctgatcgcaa ccgccgcagc gctggccgtg   660
ccgttgcccg gcggggtcaa ctcgttgggg gcgccacaag ttgccggcgc cgtacggcc   720
gtgctgtttt tgacctgat gacgcggggc ggcctcggga agcgtcatga gttggcgtcg   780
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caggactggg tccccgcggg ggggatcgca ttcgggctgt tcattgtgac gaatgcggcc   900
aagctgaccg tcgcggtcgc gcggatcgcg ctgccgccga ttcgggtacc cggcgaaacc   960
gtggacaacg aggagtgtct cgatcccgtc gcgaccccgg aggctaccag cgaagaaacc  1020
ccgacctggc aggccatcat cgcgtcggtg cccgcgtccg cggtcgggct caccgagcgc  1080
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ctggaattga tcgacggcgc catgatcgct gccatcattc ccattgctgt gtggatcacc  1500
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<210> SEQ ID NO 21  
 <211> LENGTH: 840  
 <212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3878

<400> SEQUENCE: 21

```

atggctgaac cgttggccgt cgatcccacc ggcttgagcg cagcggccgc gaaattggcc    60
ggcctcgttt ttccgcagcc tccggcgcgg atcgcggctc gcggaacgga ttcggtggtg  120
gcagcaatca acgagaccat gccaaagcatc gaatcgctgg tcagtgaagg gctgcccggc  180
gtgaaagccg ccctgactcg aacagcatcc aacatgaacg cggcggcgga cgtctatgcg  240
aagaccgatc agtcaactgg aaccagtttg agccagtatg cattcggctc gtcgggcgaa  300
ggcctggctg gcgtcgcctc ggtcgggtgt cagccaagtc aggctacca gctgctgagc  360

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acaccctgtg cacaggtcac gaccagctc ggcgagacgg ccgctgagct ggcacccctg 420
gttggtgcga cgggtgcgca actcgttcag ctggctccgc acgccgttca gatgtcgcaa 480
aacgcatccc ccatcgctca gacgatcagt caaacccccc aacaggccgc ccagagcgcg 540
cagggcggca gggcccaat gcccgcacag cttgccagcg ctgaaaaacc ggcaccggag 600
caagcggagc cgggtccacga agtgacaaac gacgatcagg gcgaccaggg cgacgtgcag 660
ccggccgagg tcggtgcccg ggcacgtgac gaaggcggcg gcgcatcacc gggccagcag 720
cccggcgggg gcggttcccg gcaagccatg gataccggag ccggtgcccg cccagcggcg 780
agtccgctgg cggcccccgt cgatccgtcg actccggcac cctcaacaac cacaacgttg 840

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<210> SEQ ID NO 22
<211> LENGTH: 2187
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3879c

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<400> SEQUENCE: 22

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atgagtatta ccaggccgac gggcagctat gccagacaga tgctggatcc gggcggctgg 60
gtggaagccg atgaagacac tttctatgac cgggcccagg aatatagcca ggttttgcaa 120
agggtcaccg atgtattgga cacctgccgc cagcagaaag gccacgtctt cgaaggcggc 180
ctatggtccg gggcggcccg caatgctgcc aacggcggcc tgggtgcaaa catcaatcaa 240
ttgatgacgc tgcaggatta tctcgccacg gtgattacct ggcacaggca tattgcccgg 300
ttgattgagc aagctaaatc cgatatcggc aataatgtgg atggcgctca acgggagatc 360
gatatcctgg agaatgacct tagcctggat gctgatgagc gccataccgc catcaattca 420
ttggtcacgg cgacgcgatg ggccaatgtc agtctggtcg ccgagaccgc tgagcgggtg 480
ctggaatcca agaattgaa acctccgaag aacgcactcg aggatttctc tcagcagaag 540
tcgcccaccg ccccagacgt gcctaccctg gtcgtgccat ccccgggcac accgggcaca 600
ccgggaaccc cgatcacccc gggaaacccc atcaccccgg gaaccccaat cacaccatc 660
ccgggagcgc cggtaacctc gatcacacca acgcccggca ctcccgtcac gccggtgacc 720
ccgggaacgc cggtcacccc ggtgaccccg gtcaaacccg gcacaccagg cgagccaacc 780
ccgatcacgc cggtcacccc cccggtgccc ccggccacac cggcaacccc ggccacgccc 840
gttaccaccg ctcccgtccc acaccgcgag ccggtcccgg caccggcgcc atcgccctggg 900
ccccagccgg ttacaccggc cactcccggg ccgctctggtc cagcaacacc gggcacccca 960
gggggcgagc cggcgcggca cgtcaaaccc ggcgcggttg cggagcaacc tgggtgtgccc 1020
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ccgagcacgc gggcggcctc ggcgcggaag gcaacctcctg cccgcccggc gtcgaccgat 1320
cacatcgaca aacccgatcg cagcaggtct gcagatgacg gtacggccgt gtcgatgatc 1380
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cgtggcggcg gtgatgcccg gcggttgccg cgacgcacgc cggcggcgct caacgcgtcc 1500
gacaacaacg cgggcgacta cgggttcttc tggatcaccc cggtgaccac cgacgggtcc 1560
atcgtcgtgg ccaacagcta tgggctggcc tacataccgg acgggatgga attgccgaat 1620

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aaggtgtact tggccagcgc ggatcacgca atcccgggtg acgaaattgc acgctgtgcc 1680
acctaccccg ttttgcccg gcaagcctgg gcggtttcc acgacatgac gctgcgggcg 1740
gtgatcggta ccgcgagca gttggccagt tcggatcccg gtgtggccaa gattgtgctg 1800
gagccagatg acattccgga gagcggcaaa atgacgggccc ggtcgcggct ggaggtcgtc 1860
gacccctcgg cggcggctca gctggccgac actaccgatc agcgtttgct cgacttgctg 1920
ccgcccggcg cggtgatgt caatccaccg ggcgatgagc ggcacatgct gtggttcgag 1980
ctgatgaagc ccatgaccag caccgctacc ggcgcgagg ccgctcatct gcgggcgttc 2040
cgggcctacg ctgcccactc acaggagatt gccctgcacc aagcgcacac tgcgactgac 2100
gcgcccgctc agcgtgtggc cgtcgcggac tggtgtact ggcaatacgt caccgggttg 2160
ctcgaccggg ccctggccgc cgcatgc 2187

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<210> SEQ ID NO 23
<211> LENGTH: 345
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3880c

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<400> SEQUENCE: 23

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gtgagcatgg acgaattgga cccgcatgtc gcccgggcgt tgacgctggc ggcgcggttt 60
cagtcggccc tagacgggac gctcaatcag atgaacaacg gatccttccg cgccaccgac 120
gaagccgaga ccgtcgaagt gacgatcaat gggcaccagt ggctcaccgg cctgcgcate 180
gaagatggtt tgctgaagaa gctgggtgcc gaggcggtgg ctcagcgggt caacgagggc 240
ctgcacaatg cgcagccgcg gccgtccgcg tataacgacg cggcgggcca gcagctgacc 300
gctgcgttat cggccatgtc ccgcgcatg aacgaaggaa tggcc 345

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<210> SEQ ID NO 24
<211> LENGTH: 1380
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3881c

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<400> SEQUENCE: 24

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atgacgcagt cgcagaccgt gacggtgat cagcaagaga ttttgaacag ggccaacgag 60
gtggaggccc cgatggcga cccaccgact gatgtcccca tcacaccgtg cgaactcacg 120
gcggtataaa acgcccacca acagctggtg ttgtccgccc acaacatgcg ggaatacctg 180
gcgcccggtg ccaaagagcg gcagcgtctg gcgacctcgc tgcgcaacgc ggccaaggcg 240
tatggcgagg ttgatgagga ggctgcgacc gcgctggaca acgacggcga aggaactgtg 300
caggcagaat cggccggggc cgtcggaggg gacagtccgg ccgaactaac cgatacggc 360
agggtgggcca cggccggtga acccaacttc atggatctca aagaagcggc aaggaagctc 420
gaaacgggcg accaaggcgc atcgctcgcg cactttgctg atgggtggaa cactttcaac 480
ctgacgctgc aaggcagcgt caagcggctc cgggggtttg acaactggga aggcgatgcg 540
gctaccgctt gcgaggcttc gctcgatcaa caacggcaat ggatactcca catggccaaa 600
ttgagcgtcg cgatggccaa gcaggctcaa tatgtcgcgc agctgcacgt gtgggctagg 660
cgggaacatc cgacttatga agacatagtc gggctcgaac ggctttacgc ggaaaaccct 720
tcggcccgcg accaaattct cccggtgtac gcggagtatc agcagaggtc ggagaagggtg 780
ctgaccgaat acaacaacaa ggcagocctg gaaccggtaa acccggcga gctcccccc 840

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gccatcaaga tcgaccgcc cccgcctccg caagagcagg gattgatccc tggettctctg 900
atgccgccgt ctgaccggctc cgggtgtgact cccggtaacc ggatgccagc cgcaccgatg 960
gttcgccta ccgatcgcc ggggtgtggc ctcccggctg acacggcggc gcagctgacg 1020
tcggctgggc gggaagccgc agcgtgtcg ggcgacgtgg cggtaaaagc ggcacgcctc 1080
ggtggcggtg gaggcggcgg ggtgcccgtcg gcgcccgttg gatccgcgat cgggggcgcc 1140
gaatcgggtg ggcgccctgg cgtctggtgac attgccggct taggccaggg aagggccggc 1200
ggcggcggcc cgtctggcgg cgggtggcatg ggaatgccga tgggtgccgc gcatcagggg 1260
caagggggcg ccaagtccaa gggttctcag caggaagacg aggcgctcta caccgaggat 1320
cgggcatgga ccgagggcgt cattggtaac cgtcggcgcc aggcagtaa ggagtcgaag 1380

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<210> SEQ ID NO 25
<211> LENGTH: 1386
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3882c

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<400> SEQUENCE: 25

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```

atgagaaatc ctttagggct gcggttcagc accgggcacg ccttgettgc ctccgcgttg 60
gccccgccat gcatcatcgc attcttgag acgcgctact ggtgggcggg gattgcgctg 120
gcctcgttgg gcgtcatcgt ggccacggtc actttctacg gccccggat caccgctgg 180
gtggcggcgg tgtacgcgtg gttgcggcgg cgcgcacggc ccccggttc ctgctcagaa 240
cctgtggtcg gggccaccgt gaagccagga gatcacgttg cggtgccgtg gcaagcggag 300
ttctggtcgc ccgtaatcga gctcattccc cgaccattca cgcgcacggg catcgtcgac 360
gggcaagccc acaccgacga catgctggac accggactgg tggaggagct cctgtcggtg 420
cactgtcccc acttggagge cgatatcgtc tcagccggct accgcgtcgg caataccgca 480
gcgccggacg tggtagtct gtatcagcag gtgatcggga cagaccggc gccggcgaac 540
cgcgggacct ggatcgtgct gcgcgccgac ccggaacgca cccgcaaatc ggcgcagcgc 600
cgcgatgaag gcgtcgcagg actggcccgg tatttggtgg cgtccgcgac gcgcattgcc 660
gatcgcactg ctagccatgg tgtcagcgc gtgtgtggcc gcagcttcga tgactacgac 720
cacgccaccg acatcggctt tgtgcgggag aaatgggtcga tgatcaaggg gcgcgatgcc 780
tacactgcc cctacggcgc gcccggaggt ccggatgtat ggtggtcggc gcgcgcggac 840
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gctggggtag tggtcggcga gacggtgaac cgatgcccgg tctacatgcc cttcagcat 1080
gtcgacatcg ccctcaacct gggtagcgt cagacattca cccagttcgt ggtgcgtgcg 1140
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ggcgcacaca tcgggcagga ggtaaagggt gcgtggccga atgcgacgac ctatctcggc 1260
ccgcacccc gtattgaccg ggtgattctg cggcacaatg tgatcggtag cccgcggcat 1320
cggcagctgc cgattcgcgg ggtttcccca cccgagaaa gccgctacca gatggcgtg 1380
ccgaag 1386

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<210> SEQ ID NO 26
<211> LENGTH: 1338

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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3883c

<400> SEQUENCE: 26
gtgcaccgta tctttctgat cacggtggcg ctggcggtgc tcaccgcgtc gcccgcatcg      60
gccatcacgc caccgcgat cgatccggcg cgttgccgc ccgacgtgac gggcccggat      120
cagcctaccg aacagcgcggt tttgtgcgcg tcgcccacca cgctgccggg gtcggggttc      180
cacgatccgc cgtggagcaa cacgtatctg ggcgtggccg atgccacaaa gttcgcgacc      240
ggggccgggg tgacggtggc ggtgatcgac accggtgtcg acgcttcgcc acgggtcccg      300
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catgggactc tcacagcatc catcatcgcg ggcggcccg cggccaccga cgggttcgct      420
ggcgctcgcg ccgacgctcg actgtctctg ctacgtcaga cgtctgaggc cttcgaaccg      480
gtcggtctac aagccaaccc gaatgacccc aacgccaccc cggccgcccg ttccatccgc      540
agtcttgccc gcgcccgtgt gcacgcccgc aacctcggcg tgggtgtgat caacatcagt      600
gaagccgcct gctacaagggt gagcaggccg atcgatgaaa cctcaactggg tgcattccatc      660
gactatgcgg tcaacgtcaa aggcgtggtg gtggtggtcg cggccggcaa caccggtggc      720
gattgctgac agaatccggc gccggaccgc tccacacccg gcgaccacg cggctggaac      780
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atcgccaga ccgggatgcc cagctcgttc tcgatgcacg gaccgtgggt ggacgtggcc      900
gcgcccgcag aaaacatcgt cgcgctcggc gacaccggtg aaccggtgaa tgcgctgcaa      960
ggccgggagg ggcgggtacc catcgccgcg acctcgtttg ccgccggcata tgtgtcgggt      1020
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aacgtcagac gacttccacc cccggtggtg gagccgggtc ccgatcgtcg cccgattacg      1260
gctgtggcgt tgggtggcgt cggccttacg ttggccctgg gccctggcgc gctgggctaga      1320
cgggcgctga gccgcca      1338

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<210> SEQ ID NO 27
<211> LENGTH: 1857
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3884c

<400> SEQUENCE: 27
atgtcgagaa tgggtggacac gatgggtgat ttactcactg cgcgccggca tttcgatcgg      60
gcgatgacga tcaagaatgg ccagggatgc gtggcggcgt tgccctgagtt tgtggctgcc      120
accgaggccc atccgtcgat ggcgacgcg tggctgggtc gtatcgctg cggtgaccgc      180
gatctggcct cgcttaagca gctcaacgcc catagcgagt ggctgcaccg cgagaccacg      240
cggatcggcc ggacgttggc cgctgaggtc cagctgggac catccatcgg gatcacggtg      300
accgacgcat ctcaagggtg gctggcgtg tcgtcggcgt tgacgatcgc gggggagtat      360
gcgaaggccg atgcctgtt agcaaaccgc gagctattgg attcgtggcg caactaccag      420
tggcatcagc tggctcgggc gttcctgatg tacgtcacgc agcgatggcc cgacgtgttg      480
tcgacggccc ccgaggatct gccgcccacg gcgatcgtca tgccggcggg gaccgcgctc      540

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atttgtgcgc tggcagccca cgcgcgcccc catctcgggc agggggcaggt ggccctggac 600
tggctggacc gggtagcagt gatcggacac agcaggatcat cggagcgggt cggcgccgac 660
gtgctcaccg cggcgatcgg accggccgat attccgctgc tggtcgcca cttggcgat 720
gtgccccgga tgggtaccg gcaactgcat gaggaggaca aggccagat ctggtgtcg 780
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attcgagaag ttgcgccgac ggacttctgt gggcactaca tcggggagtc aggaccgaag 1260
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gatcaggtag atgaattcct caccgtgaac ccgggtttgg ctggccggtt caaccgaaag 1500
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ccgcgcccca gccagctcga tgacgcccga cgggaggtat tcctcgacgc ggtcaccacc 1620
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ttcgcccgca acgtgatcga acgcgcccga gggttccggg acaccgggtt ggttgcgcaa 1740
aaaactgctg gccaacgggt atcggttcag gatctgcaga tcacaccgc caccgacatc 1800
gatgcccgca tacgcagcgt gtgctcagac aaccgagaca tggcccgcat cgtttgg 1857

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<210> SEQ ID NO 28
<211> LENGTH: 1611
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: DNA sequence Rv3885c

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<400> SEQUENCE: 28

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ttgacgtcca agctgaccgg gttcagcccg cgcagtgcga ggcgggtcgc cggggtgtgg 60
acagtgttcg tgctcgcctc ggcgggctgg gcgctgggcg gccagctagg tgcggtcatg 120
gctgtcgtgg tcggcgtcgc cttggtgttc gtacagtggg ggggtcagcc ggcgtggctg 180
tgggcggtac tggggtcgcg gggctggcgt cccgtcaaat ggaatgacct aattacctg 240
gccacaaccc gatccggggg tggcgtccgc gtgcaagacg gtgtcgggtt ggtggcgggt 300
caacttctcg gccgagcgcga cggggcgact acggtcaccg ggtcgggtgac cgtagaaagc 360
gacaacgtga ttgacgtcgt tgagctcgcg ccggtgctgc gccaccgctt ggacctgaa 420
ctcgattcaa tcagcgtcgt caccttcggc tcgcgaaccg gcaccgtcgg cgattaccg 480
cgggtgtatg acgcgagatg cggtaacccg ccgctatgccc ggcggcgcga aacgtggctg 540
atcatgcggc ttccggtgat cggcaacacc caagctttac gctggcgtac cagcgttggg 600
gccgctgcca ttccggtcgc ccaacgcggt gccagctccc tgcgctgtca gggcttgcgc 660
gccaaaactg ccaccgcaac agacttggct gagcttgatc gccggctggg gtcggacgcg 720
gtagccggga gtgcgcagcg ctggaagact atccgcggtg aagccgggtg gatgacgacg 780

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tatggtacc cggtgagge gatttcgtcg cgggttctct cgcaagcctg gacgtgcgt 840
gccgatgagg tcatccagaa cgtaacggtg tatccggacg cgacgtgcac cgcgaccatc 900
accgtgcgca caccgacgcc ggcgctacc cgcgccagtg tgatcttgcg tcggctcaat 960
ggtgagcaag ccgccggcgc tgcggccaac atgtgcgggc cacgtccaca cctacgcgga 1020
cagcggcgct gcccggtgcc ggcgagcta gtcaccgaga tcggaccgtc gggggtgttg 1080
attggcaagc tgagcaacgg ggaccggctg atgattcccg ttaccgacgc cggtgagctg 1140
tcgcgctct tcgtggccgc ggacgacacg atcgccaaga ggatcgtgat tcgcgctcgc 1200
ggtgccggtg agcgggtgtg tgtgcacact cgcgaccaag agcgttgggc cagcgtacgc 1260
atgccgagc tgagcagct cggcacacca cggcccgcgc cgcgcaccac tgtcggcgctc 1320
gtggagtacg tcggcgccgc caagaacggc gatgacggca aatctgaagg cagcgggtgc 1380
gatgtcgcga ttccgccac gccacggcca gccagtgtca tcaccattgc ccgaccgggt 1440
acctcgtgt ccgagagcga tcggcatggc ttcgaggtga ccatcgaaca aatcgatcgg 1500
gcaacggtga aagtcggtgc gccaggacaa aactggctgg ttgagatgga aatgttccgt 1560
gcggagaacc gctatgtcag ccttgagccg gtcacgatgt cgataggccg g 1611

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<210> SEQ ID NO 29
<211> LENGTH: 620
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: CFP-10 + ESAT-6

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<400> SEQUENCE: 29

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atggcagaga tgaagaccga tgccgctacc ctgcgcagc aggcaggtaa ttccgagcgg 60
atctccggcg acctgaaaaa ccagatcgac caggtggagt cgacggcagg ttccgttcag 120
ggccagtggc ggcggcgggc ggggacggcc gccacggccg cgggtgtgcg cttccaagaa 180
gcagccaata agcagaagca ggaactcgac gagatctcga cgaatattcg tcaggccggc 240
gtccaatact cgaggggcga cgaggagcag cagcaggcgc tgtcctcgca aatgggcttc 300
tgaccgcta atacgaaaag aaacggagca aaaacatgac agagcagcag tggaaattcg 360
cgggtatcga gcccgcgga agcgcgaatc agggaaatgt cacgtccatt cattccctcc 420
ttgacgaggg gaagcagtc ctgaccaagc tcgcagcggc ctggggcggg agcgggttcgg 480
aggcgtacca ggggtgtccag caaaaatggg acgcccggc taccgagctg aacaacgcgc 540
tcagaacct gccgcggagc atcagcgaag ccggtcaggc aatggcttcg accgaaggca 600
acgtcactgg gatgttcgca 620

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<210> SEQ ID NO 30
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer
SP6-BAC1

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<400> SEQUENCE: 30

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agttagctca ctcataggc a 21

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<210> SEQ ID NO 31
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
T7-BAC1

<400> SEQUENCE: 31

ggatgtgctg caaggcgatt a 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 32  
<211> LENGTH: 20  
<212> TYPE: DNA  
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
esat-6F

<400> SEQUENCE: 32

gtcacgtcca ttcattccct 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 33  
<211> LENGTH: 19  
<212> TYPE: DNA  
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
esat-6R

<400> SEQUENCE: 33

atcccagtga cgttgcctt 19

<210> SEQ ID NO 34  
<211> LENGTH: 20  
<212> TYPE: DNA  
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
RD1mic flanking region F

<400> SEQUENCE: 34

gcagtgcaaa ggtgcagata 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 35  
<211> LENGTH: 20  
<212> TYPE: DNA  
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
RD1mic flanking region R

<400> SEQUENCE: 35

gattgagaca cttgccacga 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 36  
<211> LENGTH: 20  
<212> TYPE: DNA  
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
plcA.int.F

<400> SEQUENCE: 36

caagttgggt ctggtcgaat 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 37  
<211> LENGTH: 20  
<212> TYPE: DNA  
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
plcA.int.R

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&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 37

gctaccaag gtctcctggt 20

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 38

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 153

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: Sequences at the junction RD1mic

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 38

caagacgagg ttgtaaaacc tcgacgcagg atcggcgatg aaatgccagt cggcgtcgct 60

gagcgcgcgc tgcgcgaggt cccatcttgt cgctgatttg tttgaacagc gacgaaccgg 120

tgttgaaaat gtcgcctggg tcggggattc cct 153

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 39

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 19

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
RD5mic flanking region F

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 39

gaatgccgac gtcatatcg 19

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 40

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 20

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer  
RD5mic flanking region R

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 40

cggccactga gttecgattat 20

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 41

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 152

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: Sequence at the junction RD5mic

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 41

cctcgatgaa ccacctgaca tgaccccatc cttccaaga actggagtct cgggacatgc 60

cggggcgggt cactgcccc ggtgtcctgg gtcgttccgt tgaccgtcga gtccgaacat 120

ccgtcattcc cgggtgcagc cgggtgcggtg ac 152

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 42

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 20

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer MiD1  
flanking region F

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 42

cagccaacac caagtagacg 20

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 43

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 20

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: DNA

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<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer MiD1  
 flanking region R  
  
 <400> SEQUENCE: 43  
  
 tctacctgca gtcgcttggtg 20  
  
  
 <210> SEQ ID NO 44  
 <211> LENGTH: 123  
 <212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Sequence at the junction MiD1  
  
 <400> SEQUENCE: 44  
  
 cacctgacat gaccccatcc tttccaagaa ctggagtctc cggacatgcc ggggcggttc 60  
 agggacattc atgtccatct tctggcagat cagcagatcg cttgttctca gtgcaggtga 120  
 gtc 123  
  
 <210> SEQ ID NO 45  
 <211> LENGTH: 20  
 <212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer MiD2  
 flanking region R  
  
 <400> SEQUENCE: 45  
  
 gtccatcgag gatgctgagt 20  
  
 <210> SEQ ID NO 46  
 <211> LENGTH: 20  
 <212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer MiD2  
 flanking region L  
  
 <400> SEQUENCE: 46  
  
 ctaggccatt ccgttgtctg 20  
  
 <210> SEQ ID NO 47  
 <211> LENGTH: 151  
 <212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Sequence at the junction MiD2  
  
 <400> SEQUENCE: 47  
  
 gctgcctact acgctcaacg ccagagacca gccgcccgtc gaggtctcag atcagagagt 60  
 ctccggactc accggggcgg ttcataaagg cttegagacc ggacgggctg taggttctctc 120  
 aactgtgtgg cggatggtct gagcacttaa c 151  
  
 <210> SEQ ID NO 48  
 <211> LENGTH: 15  
 <212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer MiD3  
 flanking region R  
  
 <400> SEQUENCE: 48  
  
 ggcgacgcca ttcc 15

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<210> SEQ ID NO 49  
 <211> LENGTH: 19  
 <212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Primer Mid3  
 flanking region L

<400> SEQUENCE: 49

aactgtcggg cttgctctt 19

<210> SEQ ID NO 50  
 <211> LENGTH: 181  
 <212> TYPE: DNA  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Sequence at the junction Mid3

<400> SEQUENCE: 50

tggcgccggc acctccgttg ccaccgttgc cgccgctggt gggcgcggtg ccgttcgccc 60

cgccgcaacc gttcagggcc gggttcgccc tcagccgcta aacacgccga ccaagatcaa 120

cgagctacct gcccggtcaa ggttgaagag ccccatatc agcaagggcc cggtgtcggc 180

g 181

<210> SEQ ID NO 51  
 <211> LENGTH: 108  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: RV3861 - hypothetical protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 51

Val Thr Trp Leu Ala Asp Pro Val Gly Asn Ser Arg Ile Ala Arg Ala  
 1 5 10 15

Gln Ala Cys Lys Thr Ser Ile Ser Ala Pro Ile Val Glu Ser Trp Arg  
 20 25 30

Ala Gln Arg Gly Ala Gln Cys Gly Gln Arg Glu Lys Ser Cys Arg Cys  
 35 40 45

Ser Arg Ala Val His Ile Gln Gly Ile Ser Pro Pro Leu Phe Arg Arg  
 50 55 60

Pro Leu Glu Pro Ala Val Gln Ala Ala Val Ala Ser Cys Arg Leu Gly  
 65 70 75 80

Arg His Pro Val Val Ala His Arg Val Thr Val Ala Leu Gly Gln Gly  
 85 90 95

Ser Gln Leu Ala Gln Arg Glu Cys Pro Arg Pro Ala  
 100 105

<210> SEQ ID NO 52  
 <211> LENGTH: 116  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: WHIB6 - Possible transcriptional regulatory  
 protein WHIB-like WHIB6

<400> SEQUENCE: 52

Met Arg Tyr Ala Phe Ala Ala Glu Ala Thr Thr Cys Asn Ala Phe Trp  
 1 5 10 15

Arg Asn Val Asp Met Thr Val Thr Ala Leu Tyr Glu Val Pro Leu Gly  
 20 25 30

Val Cys Thr Gln Asp Pro Asp Arg Trp Thr Thr Thr Pro Asp Asp Glu

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      35              40              45
Ala Lys Thr Leu Cys Arg Ala Cys Pro Arg Arg Trp Leu Cys Ala Arg
  50              55              60
Asp Ala Val Glu Ser Ala Gly Ala Glu Gly Leu Trp Ala Gly Val Val
  65              70              75              80
Ile Pro Glu Ser Gly Arg Ala Arg Ala Phe Ala Leu Gly Gln Leu Arg
              85              90              95
Ser Leu Ala Glu Arg Asn Gly Tyr Pro Val Arg Asp His Arg Val Ser
              100              105              110
Ala Gln Ser Ala
              115

<210> SEQ ID NO 53
<211> LENGTH: 392
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3863 - hypothetical alanine rich protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 53
Met Ala Gly Glu Arg Lys Val Cys Pro Pro Ser Arg Leu Val Pro Ala
  1              5              10              15
Asn Lys Gly Ser Thr Gln Met Ser Lys Ala Gly Ser Thr Val Gly Pro
              20              25              30
Ala Pro Leu Val Ala Cys Ser Gly Gly Thr Ser Asp Val Ile Glu Pro
              35              40              45
Arg Arg Gly Val Ala Ile Ile Gly His Ser Cys Arg Val Gly Thr Gln
              50              55              60
Ile Asp Asp Ser Arg Ile Ser Gln Thr His Leu Arg Ala Val Ser Asp
  65              70              75              80
Asp Gly Arg Trp Arg Ile Val Gly Asn Ile Pro Arg Gly Met Phe Val
              85              90              95
Gly Gly Arg Arg Gly Ser Ser Val Thr Val Ser Asp Lys Thr Leu Ile
              100              105              110
Arg Phe Gly Asp Pro Pro Gly Gly Lys Ala Leu Thr Phe Glu Val Val
              115              120              125
Arg Pro Ser Asp Ser Ala Ala Gln His Gly Arg Val Gln Pro Ser Ala
              130              135              140
Asp Leu Ser Asp Asp Pro Ala His Asn Ala Ala Pro Val Ala Pro Asp
  145              150              155              160
Pro Gly Val Val Arg Ala Gly Ala Ala Ala Ala Arg Arg Arg Glu
              165              170              175
Leu Asp Ile Ser Gln Arg Ser Leu Ala Ala Asp Gly Ile Ile Asn Ala
              180              185              190
Gly Ala Leu Ile Ala Phe Glu Lys Gly Arg Ser Trp Pro Arg Glu Arg
              195              200              205
Thr Arg Ala Lys Leu Glu Glu Val Leu Gln Trp Pro Ala Gly Thr Ile
              210              215              220
Ala Arg Ile Arg Arg Gly Glu Pro Thr Glu Pro Ala Thr Asn Pro Asp
  225              230              235              240
Ala Ser Pro Gly Leu Arg Pro Ala Asp Gly Pro Ala Ser Leu Ile Ala
              245              250              255
Gln Ala Val Thr Ala Ala Val Asp Gly Cys Ser Leu Ala Ile Ala Ala
              260              265              270
Leu Pro Ala Thr Glu Asp Pro Glu Phe Thr Glu Arg Ala Ala Pro Ile
              275              280              285

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Leu Ala Asp Leu Arg Gln Leu Glu Ala Ile Ala Val Gln Ala Thr Arg  
 290 295 300  
 Ile Ser Arg Ile Thr Pro Glu Leu Ile Lys Ala Leu Gly Ala Val Arg  
 305 310 315 320  
 Arg His His Asp Glu Leu Met Arg Leu Gly Ala Thr Ala Pro Gly Ala  
 325 330 335  
 Thr Leu Ala Gln Arg Leu Tyr Ala Ala Arg Arg Arg Ala Asn Leu Ser  
 340 345 350  
 Thr Leu Glu Thr Ala Gln Ala Ala Gly Val Ala Glu Glu Met Ile Val  
 355 360 365  
 Gly Ala Glu Ala Glu Glu Glu Leu Pro Ala Glu Ala Thr Glu Ala Ile  
 370 375 380  
 Glu Ala Leu Ile Arg Gln Ile Asn  
 385 390

<210> SEQ ID NO 54  
 <211> LENGTH: 402  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3864 - conserved hypothetical protein  
 <400> SEQUENCE: 54

Met Ala Ser Gly Ser Gly Leu Cys Lys Thr Thr Ser Asn Phe Ile Trp  
 1 5 10 15  
 Gly Gln Leu Leu Leu Gly Glu Gly Ile Pro Asp Pro Gly Asp Ile  
 20 25 30  
 Phe Asn Thr Gly Ser Ser Leu Phe Lys Gln Ile Ser Asp Lys Met Gly  
 35 40 45  
 Leu Ala Ile Pro Gly Thr Asn Trp Ile Gly Gln Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr  
 50 55 60  
 Leu Asn Gln Asn Ile Ala Gln Gln Leu Arg Ala Gln Val Met Gly Asp  
 65 70 75 80  
 Leu Asp Lys Leu Thr Gly Asn Met Ile Ser Asn Gln Ala Lys Tyr Val  
 85 90 95  
 Ser Asp Thr Arg Asp Val Leu Arg Ala Met Lys Lys Met Ile Asp Gly  
 100 105 110  
 Val Tyr Lys Val Cys Lys Gly Leu Glu Lys Ile Pro Leu Leu Gly His  
 115 120 125  
 Leu Trp Ser Trp Glu Leu Ala Ile Pro Met Ser Gly Ile Ala Met Ala  
 130 135 140  
 Val Val Gly Gly Ala Leu Leu Tyr Leu Thr Ile Met Thr Leu Met Asn  
 145 150 155 160  
 Ala Thr Asn Leu Arg Gly Ile Leu Gly Arg Leu Ile Glu Met Leu Thr  
 165 170 175  
 Thr Leu Pro Lys Phe Pro Gly Leu Pro Gly Leu Pro Ser Leu Pro Asp  
 180 185 190  
 Ile Ile Asp Gly Leu Trp Pro Pro Lys Leu Pro Asp Ile Pro Ile Pro  
 195 200 205  
 Gly Leu Pro Asp Ile Pro Gly Leu Pro Asp Phe Lys Trp Pro Pro Thr  
 210 215 220  
 Pro Gly Ser Pro Leu Phe Pro Asp Leu Pro Ser Phe Pro Gly Phe Pro  
 225 230 235 240  
 Gly Phe Pro Glu Phe Pro Ala Ile Pro Gly Phe Pro Ala Leu Pro Gly  
 245 250 255

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Leu Pro Ser Ile Pro Asn Leu Phe Pro Gly Leu Pro Gly Leu Gly Asp  
 260 265 270

Leu Leu Pro Gly Val Gly Asp Leu Gly Lys Leu Pro Thr Trp Thr Glu  
 275 280 285

Leu Ala Ala Leu Pro Asp Phe Leu Gly Gly Phe Ala Gly Leu Pro Ser  
 290 295 300

Leu Gly Phe Gly Asn Leu Leu Ser Phe Ala Ser Leu Pro Thr Val Gly  
 305 310 315 320

Gln Val Thr Ala Thr Met Gly Gln Leu Gln Gln Leu Val Ala Ala Gly  
 325 330 335

Gly Gly Pro Ser Gln Leu Ala Ser Met Gly Ser Gln Gln Ala Gln Leu  
 340 345 350

Ile Ser Ser Gln Ala Gln Gln Gly Gly Gln Gln His Ala Thr Leu Val  
 355 360 365

Ser Asp Lys Lys Glu Asp Glu Glu Gly Val Ala Glu Ala Glu Arg Ala  
 370 375 380

Pro Ile Asp Ala Gly Thr Ala Ala Ser Gln Arg Gly Gln Glu Gly Thr  
 385 390 395 400

Val Leu

<210> SEQ ID NO 55  
 <211> LENGTH: 103  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3865 - conserved hypothetical protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 55

Met Thr Gly Phe Leu Gly Val Val Pro Ser Phe Leu Lys Val Leu Ala  
 1 5 10 15

Gly Met His Asn Glu Ile Val Gly Asp Ile Lys Arg Ala Thr Asp Thr  
 20 25 30

Val Ala Gly Ile Ser Gly Arg Val Gln Leu Thr His Gly Ser Phe Thr  
 35 40 45

Ser Lys Phe Asn Asp Thr Leu Gln Glu Phe Glu Thr Thr Arg Ser Ser  
 50 55 60

Thr Gly Thr Gly Leu Gln Gly Val Thr Ser Gly Leu Ala Asn Asn Leu  
 65 70 75 80

Leu Ala Ala Ala Gly Ala Tyr Leu Lys Ala Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala Gly  
 85 90 95

Val Ile Asp Lys Ile Phe Gly  
 100

<210> SEQ ID NO 56  
 <211> LENGTH: 283  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3866 - conserved hypothetical protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 56

Met Thr Gly Pro Ser Ala Ala Gly Arg Ala Gly Thr Ala Asp Asn Val  
 1 5 10 15

Val Gly Val Glu Val Thr Ile Asp Gly Met Leu Val Ile Ala Asp Arg  
 20 25 30

Leu His Leu Val Asp Phe Pro Val Thr Leu Gly Ile Arg Pro Asn Ile  
 35 40 45

Pro Gln Glu Asp Leu Arg Asp Ile Val Trp Glu Gln Val Gln Arg Asp



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Glu Phe Val Gly Met Thr Leu Asn Leu Pro Thr Pro Glu Glu Ala Ala  
 145 150 155 160  
 Ala Ala Glu Ala Glu Val Phe Ala Thr Arg Tyr Asp Val Asp Tyr Thr  
 165 170 175  
 Ser Arg Tyr Lys Ala Asp Asp  
 180

<210> SEQ ID NO 58  
 <211> LENGTH: 573  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Protein sequence Rv3868

<400> SEQUENCE: 58

Met Thr Asp Arg Leu Ala Ser Leu Phe Glu Ser Ala Val Ser Met Leu  
 1 5 10 15  
 Pro Met Ser Glu Ala Arg Ser Leu Asp Leu Phe Thr Glu Ile Thr Asn  
 20 25 30  
 Tyr Asp Glu Ser Ala Cys Asp Ala Trp Ile Gly Arg Ile Arg Cys Gly  
 35 40 45  
 Asp Thr Asp Arg Val Thr Leu Phe Arg Ala Trp Tyr Ser Arg Arg Asn  
 50 55 60  
 Phe Gly Gln Leu Ser Gly Ser Val Gln Ile Ser Met Ser Thr Leu Asn  
 65 70 75 80  
 Ala Arg Ile Ala Ile Gly Gly Leu Tyr Gly Asp Ile Thr Tyr Pro Val  
 85 90 95  
 Thr Ser Pro Leu Ala Ile Thr Met Gly Phe Ala Ala Cys Glu Ala Ala  
 100 105 110  
 Gln Gly Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ala Met Glu Ala Leu Glu Ala Ala Pro Val  
 115 120 125  
 Ala Gly Ser Glu His Leu Val Ala Trp Met Lys Ala Val Val Tyr Gly  
 130 135 140  
 Ala Ala Glu Arg Trp Thr Asp Val Ile Asp Gln Val Lys Ser Ala Gly  
 145 150 155 160  
 Lys Trp Pro Asp Lys Phe Leu Ala Gly Ala Ala Gly Val Ala His Gly  
 165 170 175  
 Val Ala Ala Ala Asn Leu Ala Leu Phe Thr Glu Ala Glu Arg Arg Leu  
 180 185 190  
 Thr Glu Ala Asn Asp Ser Pro Ala Gly Glu Ala Cys Ala Arg Ala Ile  
 195 200 205  
 Ala Trp Tyr Leu Ala Met Ala Arg Arg Ser Gln Gly Asn Glu Ser Ala  
 210 215 220  
 Ala Val Ala Leu Leu Glu Trp Leu Gln Thr Thr His Pro Glu Pro Lys  
 225 230 235 240  
 Val Ala Ala Ala Leu Lys Asp Pro Ser Tyr Arg Leu Lys Thr Thr Thr  
 245 250 255  
 Ala Glu Gln Ile Ala Ser Arg Ala Asp Pro Trp Asp Pro Gly Ser Val  
 260 265 270  
 Val Thr Asp Asn Ser Gly Arg Glu Arg Leu Leu Ala Glu Ala Gln Ala  
 275 280 285  
 Glu Leu Asp Arg Gln Ile Gly Leu Thr Arg Val Lys Asn Gln Ile Glu  
 290 295 300  
 Arg Tyr Arg Ala Ala Thr Leu Met Ala Arg Val Arg Ala Ala Lys Gly  
 305 310 315 320

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Met Lys Val Ala Gln Pro Ser Lys His Met Ile Phe Thr Gly Pro Pro
      325                               330           335

Gly Thr Gly Lys Thr Thr Ile Ala Arg Val Val Ala Asn Ile Leu Ala
      340                               345           350

Gly Leu Gly Val Ile Ala Glu Pro Lys Leu Val Glu Thr Ser Arg Lys
      355                               360           365

Asp Phe Val Ala Glu Tyr Glu Gly Gln Ser Ala Val Lys Thr Ala Lys
      370                               375           380

Thr Ile Asp Gln Ala Leu Gly Gly Val Leu Phe Ile Asp Glu Ala Tyr
      385                               390           395           400

Ala Leu Val Gln Glu Arg Asp Gly Arg Thr Asp Pro Phe Gly Gln Glu
      405                               410           415

Ala Leu Asp Thr Leu Leu Ala Arg Met Glu Asn Asp Arg Asp Arg Leu
      420                               425           430

Val Val Ile Ile Ala Gly Tyr Ser Ser Asp Ile Asp Arg Leu Leu Glu
      435                               440           445

Thr Asn Glu Gly Leu Arg Ser Arg Phe Ala Thr Arg Ile Glu Phe Asp
      450                               455           460

Thr Tyr Ser Pro Glu Glu Leu Leu Glu Ile Ala Asn Val Ile Ala Ala
      465                               470           475           480

Ala Asp Asp Ser Ala Leu Thr Ala Glu Ala Ala Glu Asn Phe Leu Gln
      485                               490           495

Ala Ala Lys Gln Leu Glu Gln Arg Met Leu Arg Gly Arg Arg Ala Leu
      500                               505           510

Asp Val Ala Gly Asn Gly Arg Tyr Ala Arg Gln Leu Val Glu Ala Ser
      515                               520           525

Glu Gln Cys Arg Asp Met Arg Leu Ala Gln Val Leu Asp Ile Asp Thr
      530                               535           540

Leu Asp Glu Asp Arg Leu Arg Glu Ile Asn Gly Ser Asp Met Ala Glu
      545                               550           555           560

Ala Ile Ala Ala Val His Ala His Leu Asn Met Arg Glu
      565                               570

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<210> SEQ ID NO 59
<211> LENGTH: 480
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Protein sequence Rv3869

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<400> SEQUENCE: 59

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Met Gly Leu Arg Leu Thr Thr Lys Val Gln Val Ser Gly Trp Arg Phe
 1           5                               10           15

Leu Leu Arg Arg Leu Glu His Ala Ile Val Arg Arg Asp Thr Arg Met
 20           25                               30

Phe Asp Asp Pro Leu Gln Phe Tyr Ser Arg Ser Ile Ala Leu Gly Ile
 35           40                               45

Val Val Ala Val Leu Ile Leu Ala Gly Ala Ala Leu Leu Ala Tyr Phe
 50           55                               60

Lys Pro Gln Gly Lys Leu Gly Gly Thr Ser Leu Phe Thr Asp Arg Ala
 65           70                               75           80

Thr Asn Gln Leu Tyr Val Leu Leu Ser Gly Gln Leu His Pro Val Tyr
 85           90                               95

Asn Leu Thr Ser Ala Arg Leu Val Leu Gly Asn Pro Ala Asn Pro Ala
100          105                               110

Thr Val Lys Ser Ser Glu Leu Ser Lys Leu Pro Met Gly Gln Thr Val

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115				120				125							
Gly	Ile	Pro	Gly	Ala	Pro	Tyr	Ala	Thr	Pro	Val	Ser	Ala	Gly	Ser	Thr
130						135				140					
Ser	Ile	Trp	Thr	Leu	Cys	Asp	Thr	Val	Ala	Arg	Ala	Asp	Ser	Thr	Ser
145				150						155					160
Pro	Val	Val	Gln	Thr	Ala	Val	Ile	Ala	Met	Pro	Leu	Glu	Ile	Asp	Ala
			165						170					175	
Ser	Ile	Asp	Pro	Leu	Gln	Ser	His	Glu	Ala	Val	Leu	Val	Ser	Tyr	Gln
		180						185					190		
Gly	Glu	Thr	Trp	Ile	Val	Thr	Thr	Lys	Gly	Arg	His	Ala	Ile	Asp	Leu
		195					200					205			
Thr	Asp	Arg	Ala	Leu	Thr	Ser	Ser	Met	Gly	Ile	Pro	Val	Thr	Ala	Arg
210						215					220				
Pro	Thr	Pro	Ile	Ser	Glu	Gly	Met	Phe	Asn	Ala	Leu	Pro	Asp	Met	Gly
225				230						235					240
Pro	Trp	Gln	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ile	Pro	Ala	Ala	Gly	Ala	Pro	Asn	Ser	Leu
			245					250					255		
Gly	Leu	Pro	Asp	Leu	Val	Ile	Gly	Ser	Val	Phe	Gln	Ile	His	Thr	
		260					265					270			
Asp	Lys	Gly	Pro	Gln	Tyr	Tyr	Val	Val	Leu	Pro	Asp	Gly	Ile	Ala	Gln
		275				280					285				
Val	Asn	Ala	Thr	Thr	Ala	Ala	Ala	Leu	Arg	Ala	Thr	Gln	Ala	His	Gly
	290				295						300				
Leu	Val	Ala	Pro	Pro	Ala	Met	Val	Pro	Ser	Leu	Val	Val	Arg	Ile	Ala
305				310						315					320
Glu	Arg	Val	Tyr	Pro	Ser	Pro	Leu	Pro	Asp	Glu	Pro	Leu	Lys	Ile	Val
			325						330					335	
Ser	Arg	Pro	Gln	Asp	Pro	Ala	Leu	Cys	Trp	Ser	Trp	Gln	Arg	Ser	Ala
		340						345					350		
Gly	Asp	Gln	Ser	Pro	Gln	Ser	Thr	Val	Leu	Ser	Gly	Arg	His	Leu	Pro
		355					360					365			
Ile	Ser	Pro	Ser	Ala	Met	Asn	Met	Gly	Ile	Lys	Gln	Ile	His	Gly	Thr
		370				375					380				
Ala	Thr	Val	Tyr	Leu	Asp	Gly	Gly	Lys	Phe	Val	Ala	Leu	Gln	Ser	Pro
385				390						395					400
Asp	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Thr	Glu	Ser	Met	Tyr	Tyr	Ile	Asp	Pro	Gln	Gly	Val
			405						410					415	
Arg	Tyr	Gly	Val	Pro	Asn	Ala	Glu	Thr	Ala	Lys	Ser	Leu	Gly	Leu	Ser
			420					425					430		
Ser	Pro	Gln	Asn	Ala	Pro	Trp	Glu	Ile	Val	Arg	Leu	Leu	Val	Asp	Gly
		435					440					445			
Pro	Val	Leu	Ser	Lys	Asp	Ala	Ala	Leu	Leu	Glu	His	Asp	Thr	Leu	Pro
		450			455						460				
Ala	Asp	Pro	Ser	Pro	Arg	Lys	Val	Pro	Ala	Gly	Ala	Ser	Gly	Ala	Pro
465				470						475					480

<210> SEQ ID NO 60  
 <211> LENGTH: 747  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Protein sequence Rv3870

<400> SEQUENCE: 60

Met Thr Thr Lys Lys Phe Thr Pro Thr Ile Thr Arg Gly Pro Arg Leu  
 1 5 10 15

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Thr Pro Gly Glu Ile Ser Leu Thr Pro Pro Asp Asp Leu Gly Ile Asp  
                   20  25  30  
 Ile Pro Pro Ser Gly Val Gln Lys Ile Leu Pro Tyr Val Met Gly Gly  
                   35  40  45  
 Ala Met Leu Gly Met Ile Ala Ile Met Val Ala Gly Gly Thr Arg Gln  
                   50  55  60  
 Leu Ser Pro Tyr Met Leu Met Met Pro Leu Met Met Ile Val Met Met  
                   65  70  75  80  
 Val Gly Gly Leu Ala Gly Ser Thr Gly Gly Gly Gly Lys Lys Val Pro  
                                   85  90  95  
 Glu Ile Asn Ala Asp Arg Lys Glu Tyr Leu Arg Tyr Leu Ala Gly Leu  
                                   100  105  110  
 Arg Thr Arg Val Thr Ser Ser Ala Thr Ser Gln Val Ala Phe Phe Ser  
                   115  120  125  
 Tyr His Ala Pro His Pro Glu Asp Leu Leu Ser Ile Val Gly Thr Gln  
                   130  135  140  
 Arg Gln Trp Ser Arg Pro Ala Asn Ala Asp Phe Tyr Ala Ala Thr Arg  
                   145  150  155  160  
 Ile Gly Ile Gly Asp Gln Pro Ala Val Asp Arg Leu Leu Lys Pro Ala  
                                   165  170  175  
 Val Gly Gly Glu Leu Ala Ala Ala Ser Ala Ala Pro Gln Pro Phe Leu  
                                   180  185  190  
 Glu Pro Val Ser His Met Trp Val Val Lys Phe Leu Arg Thr His Gly  
                   195  200  205  
 Leu Ile His Asp Cys Pro Lys Leu Leu Gln Leu Arg Thr Phe Pro Thr  
                   210  215  220  
 Ile Ala Ile Gly Gly Asp Leu Ala Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Met Thr Ala  
                   225  230  235  240  
 Met Ile Cys His Leu Ala Val Phe His Pro Pro Asp Leu Leu Gln Ile  
                                   245  250  255  
 Arg Val Leu Thr Glu Glu Pro Asp Asp Pro Asp Trp Ser Trp Leu Lys  
                                   260  265  270  
 Trp Leu Pro His Val Gln His Gln Thr Glu Thr Asp Ala Ala Gly Ser  
                   275  280  285  
 Thr Arg Leu Ile Phe Thr Arg Gln Glu Gly Leu Ser Asp Leu Ala Ala  
                   290  295  300  
 Arg Gly Pro His Ala Pro Asp Ser Leu Pro Gly Gly Pro Tyr Val Val  
                   305  310  315  320  
 Val Val Asp Leu Thr Gly Gly Lys Ala Gly Phe Pro Pro Asp Gly Arg  
                                   325  330  335  
 Ala Gly Val Thr Val Ile Thr Leu Gly Asn His Arg Gly Ser Ala Tyr  
                                   340  345  350  
 Arg Ile Arg Val His Glu Asp Gly Thr Ala Asp Asp Arg Leu Pro Asn  
                   355  360  365  
 Gln Ser Phe Arg Gln Val Thr Ser Val Thr Asp Arg Met Ser Pro Gln  
                   370  375  380  
 Gln Ala Ser Arg Ile Ala Arg Lys Leu Ala Gly Trp Ser Ile Thr Gly  
                   385  390  395  400  
 Thr Ile Leu Asp Lys Thr Ser Arg Val Gln Lys Lys Val Ala Thr Asp  
                                   405  410  415  
 Trp His Gln Leu Val Gly Ala Gln Ser Val Glu Glu Ile Thr Pro Ser  
                   420  425  430  
 Arg Trp Arg Met Tyr Thr Asp Thr Asp Arg Asp Arg Leu Lys Ile Pro



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Leu Gln Asp Val Trp Gly Val Asp Val Ser Gly Ala Gly Gly Asn Ile  
 65 70 75 80  
 Gly Ile Gly Gly Ala Pro Gln Thr Gly Lys Ser Thr Leu Leu Gln Thr  
 85 90 95  
 Met Val Met Ser Ala Ala Ala Thr His Ser Pro Arg Asn Val Gln Phe  
 100 105 110  
 Tyr Cys Ile Asp Leu Gly Gly Gly Gly Leu Ile Tyr Leu Glu Asn Leu  
 115 120 125  
 Pro His Val Gly Gly Val Ala Asn Arg Ser Glu Pro Asp Lys Val Asn  
 130 135 140  
 Arg Val Val Ala Glu Met Gln Ala Val Met Arg Gln Arg Glu Thr Thr  
 145 150 155 160  
 Phe Lys Glu His Arg Val Gly Ser Ile Gly Met Tyr Arg Gln Leu Arg  
 165 170 175  
 Asp Asp Pro Ser Gln Pro Val Ala Ser Asp Pro Tyr Gly Asp Val Phe  
 180 185 190  
 Leu Ile Ile Asp Gly Trp Pro Gly Phe Val Gly Glu Phe Pro Asp Leu  
 195 200 205  
 Glu Gly Gln Val Gln Asp Leu Ala Ala Gln Gly Leu Ala Phe Gly Val  
 210 215 220  
 His Val Ile Ile Ser Thr Pro Arg Trp Thr Glu Leu Lys Ser Arg Val  
 225 230 235 240  
 Arg Asp Tyr Leu Gly Thr Lys Ile Glu Phe Arg Leu Gly Asp Val Asn  
 245 250 255  
 Glu Thr Gln Ile Asp Arg Ile Thr Arg Glu Ile Pro Ala Asn Arg Pro  
 260 265 270  
 Gly Arg Ala Val Ser Met Glu Lys His His Leu Met Ile Gly Val Pro  
 275 280 285  
 Arg Phe Asp Gly Val His Ser Ala Asp Asn Leu Val Glu Ala Ile Thr  
 290 295 300  
 Ala Gly Val Thr Gln Ile Ala Ser Gln His Thr Glu Gln Ala Pro Pro  
 305 310 315 320  
 Val Arg Val Leu Pro Glu Arg Ile His Leu His Glu Leu Asp Pro Asn  
 325 330 335  
 Pro Pro Gly Pro Glu Ser Asp Tyr Arg Thr Arg Trp Glu Ile Pro Ile  
 340 345 350  
 Gly Leu Arg Glu Thr Asp Leu Thr Pro Ala His Cys His Met His Thr  
 355 360 365  
 Asn Pro His Leu Leu Ile Phe Gly Ala Ala Lys Ser Gly Lys Thr Thr  
 370 375 380  
 Ile Ala His Ala Ile Ala Arg Ala Ile Cys Ala Arg Asn Ser Pro Gln  
 385 390 395 400  
 Gln Val Arg Phe Met Leu Ala Asp Tyr Arg Ser Gly Leu Leu Asp Ala  
 405 410 415  
 Val Pro Asp Thr His Leu Leu Gly Ala Gly Ala Ile Asn Arg Asn Ser  
 420 425 430  
 Ala Ser Leu Asp Glu Ala Val Gln Ala Leu Ala Val Asn Leu Lys Lys  
 435 440 445  
 Arg Leu Pro Pro Thr Asp Leu Thr Thr Ala Gln Leu Arg Ser Arg Ser  
 450 455 460  
 Trp Trp Ser Gly Phe Asp Val Val Leu Leu Val Asp Asp Trp His Met  
 465 470 475 480  
 Ile Val Gly Ala Ala Gly Gly Met Pro Pro Met Ala Pro Leu Ala Pro

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      485              490              495
Leu Leu Pro Ala Ala Ala Asp Ile Gly Leu His Ile Ile Val Thr Cys
      500              505              510

Gln Met Ser Gln Ala Tyr Lys Ala Thr Met Asp Lys Phe Val Gly Ala
      515              520              525

Ala Phe Gly Ser Gly Ala Pro Thr Met Phe Leu Ser Gly Glu Lys Gln
      530              535              540

Glu Phe Pro Ser Ser Glu Phe Lys Val Lys Arg Arg Pro Pro Gly Gln
      545              550              555

Ala Phe Leu Val Ser Pro Asp Gly Lys Glu Val Ile Gln Ala Pro Tyr
      565              570              575

Ile Glu Pro Pro Glu Glu Val Phe Ala Ala Pro Pro Ser Ala Gly
      580              585              590

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<210> SEQ ID NO 62
<211> LENGTH: 99
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3872-PE35 - PE family-related protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 62

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Met Glu Lys Met Ser His Asp Pro Ile Ala Ala Asp Ile Gly Thr Gln
 1              5              10              15

Val Ser Asp Asn Ala Leu His Gly Val Thr Ala Gly Ser Thr Ala Leu
      20              25              30

Thr Ser Val Thr Gly Leu Val Pro Ala Gly Ala Asp Glu Val Ser Ala
      35              40              45

Gln Ala Ala Thr Ala Phe Thr Ser Glu Gly Ile Gln Leu Leu Ala Ser
      50              55              60

Asn Ala Ser Ala Gln Asp Gln Leu His Arg Ala Gly Glu Ala Val Gln
      65              70              75              80

Asp Val Ala Arg Thr Tyr Ser Gln Ile Asp Asp Gly Ala Ala Gly Val
      85              90              95

Phe Ala Glu

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<210> SEQ ID NO 63
<211> LENGTH: 368
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3873-PPE68 - PPE family protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 63

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Met Leu Trp His Ala Met Pro Pro Glu Leu Asn Thr Ala Arg Leu Met
 1              5              10              15

Ala Gly Ala Gly Pro Ala Pro Met Leu Ala Ala Ala Ala Gly Trp Gln
      20              25              30

Thr Leu Ser Ala Ala Leu Asp Ala Gln Ala Val Glu Leu Thr Ala Arg
      35              40              45

Leu Asn Ser Leu Gly Glu Ala Trp Thr Gly Gly Gly Ser Asp Lys Ala
      50              55              60

Leu Ala Ala Ala Thr Pro Met Val Val Trp Leu Gln Thr Ala Ser Thr
      65              70              75              80

Gln Ala Lys Thr Arg Ala Met Gln Ala Thr Ala Gln Ala Ala Tyr
      85              90              95

Thr Gln Ala Met Ala Thr Thr Pro Ser Leu Pro Glu Ile Ala Ala Asn
      100             105             110

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His Ile Thr Gln Ala Val Leu Thr Ala Thr Asn Phe Phe Gly Ile Asn  
 115 120 125  
 Thr Ile Pro Ile Ala Leu Thr Glu Met Asp Tyr Phe Ile Arg Met Trp  
 130 135 140  
 Asn Gln Ala Ala Leu Ala Met Glu Val Tyr Gln Ala Glu Thr Ala Val  
 145 150 155 160  
 Asn Thr Leu Phe Glu Lys Leu Glu Pro Met Ala Ser Ile Leu Asp Pro  
 165 170 175  
 Gly Ala Ser Gln Ser Thr Thr Asn Pro Ile Phe Gly Met Pro Ser Pro  
 180 185 190  
 Gly Ser Ser Thr Pro Val Gly Gln Leu Pro Pro Ala Ala Thr Gln Thr  
 195 200 205  
 Leu Gly Gln Leu Gly Glu Met Ser Gly Pro Met Gln Gln Leu Thr Gln  
 210 215 220  
 Pro Leu Gln Gln Val Thr Ser Leu Phe Ser Gln Val Gly Gly Thr Gly  
 225 230 235 240  
 Gly Gly Asn Pro Ala Asp Glu Glu Ala Ala Gln Met Gly Leu Leu Gly  
 245 250 255  
 Thr Ser Pro Leu Ser Asn His Pro Leu Ala Gly Gly Ser Gly Pro Ser  
 260 265 270  
 Ala Gly Ala Gly Leu Leu Arg Ala Glu Ser Leu Pro Gly Ala Gly Gly  
 275 280 285  
 Ser Leu Thr Arg Thr Pro Leu Met Ser Gln Leu Ile Glu Lys Pro Val  
 290 295 300  
 Ala Pro Ser Val Met Pro Ala Ala Ala Ala Gly Ser Ser Ala Thr Gly  
 305 310 315 320  
 Gly Ala Ala Pro Val Gly Ala Gly Ala Met Gly Gln Gly Ala Gln Ser  
 325 330 335  
 Gly Gly Ser Thr Arg Pro Gly Leu Val Ala Pro Ala Pro Leu Ala Gln  
 340 345 350  
 Glu Arg Glu Glu Asp Asp Glu Asp Asp Trp Asp Glu Glu Asp Asp Trp  
 355 360 365

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 64

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 100

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: PRT

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3874-esxB - 10kDa culture filtrate antigen CFP10

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 64

Met Ala Glu Met Lys Thr Asp Ala Ala Thr Leu Ala Gln Glu Ala Gly  
 1 5 10 15  
 Asn Phe Glu Arg Ile Ser Gly Asp Leu Lys Thr Gln Ile Asp Gln Val  
 20 25 30  
 Glu Ser Thr Ala Gly Ser Leu Gln Gly Gln Trp Arg Gly Ala Ala Gly  
 35 40 45  
 Thr Ala Ala Gln Ala Ala Val Val Arg Phe Gln Glu Ala Ala Asn Lys  
 50 55 60  
 Gln Lys Gln Glu Leu Asp Glu Ile Ser Thr Asn Ile Arg Gln Ala Gly  
 65 70 75 80  
 Val Gln Tyr Ser Arg Ala Asp Glu Glu Gln Gln Gln Ala Leu Ser Ser  
 85 90 95  
 Gln Met Gly Phe  
 100

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<210> SEQ ID NO 65  
 <211> LENGTH: 95  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3875-Esat6 - 6 kDa early secretory antigenic target Esat6 (Esat-6)

<400> SEQUENCE: 65

Met Thr Glu Gln Gln Trp Asn Phe Ala Gly Ile Glu Ala Ala Ala Ser  
 1 5 10 15  
 Ala Ile Gln Gly Asn Val Thr Ser Ile His Ser Leu Leu Asp Glu Gly  
 20 25 30  
 Lys Gln Ser Leu Thr Lys Leu Ala Ala Ala Trp Gly Gly Ser Gly Ser  
 35 40 45  
 Glu Ala Tyr Gln Gly Val Gln Gln Lys Trp Asp Ala Thr Ala Thr Glu  
 50 55 60  
 Leu Asn Asn Ala Leu Gln Asn Leu Ala Arg Thr Ile Ser Glu Ala Gly  
 65 70 75 80  
 Gln Ala Met Ala Ser Thr Glu Gly Asn Val Thr Gly Met Phe Ala  
 85 90 95

<210> SEQ ID NO 66  
 <211> LENGTH: 666  
 <212> TYPE: PRT  
 <213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis  
 <220> FEATURE:  
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Protein sequence Rv3876

<400> SEQUENCE: 66

Met Ala Ala Asp Tyr Asp Lys Leu Phe Arg Pro His Glu Gly Met Glu  
 1 5 10 15  
 Ala Pro Asp Asp Met Ala Ala Gln Pro Phe Phe Asp Pro Ser Ala Ser  
 20 25 30  
 Phe Pro Pro Ala Pro Ala Ser Ala Asn Leu Pro Lys Pro Asn Gly Gln  
 35 40 45  
 Thr Pro Pro Pro Thr Ser Asp Asp Leu Ser Glu Arg Phe Val Ser Ala  
 50 55 60  
 Pro Thr Pro Met  
 65 70 75 80  
 Pro Ile Ala Ala Gly Glu Pro Pro Ser Pro Glu Pro Ala Ala Ser Lys  
 85 90 95  
 Pro Pro Thr Pro Pro Met Pro Ile Ala Gly Pro Glu Pro Ala Pro Pro  
 100 105 110  
 Lys Pro Pro Thr Pro Pro Met Pro Ile Ala Gly Pro Glu Pro Ala Pro  
 115 120 125  
 Pro Lys Pro Pro Thr Pro Pro Met Pro Ile Ala Gly Pro Ala Pro Thr  
 130 135 140  
 Pro Thr Glu Ser Gln Leu Ala Pro Pro Arg Pro Pro Thr Pro Gln Thr  
 145 150 155 160  
 Pro Thr Gly Ala Pro Gln Gln Pro Glu Ser Pro Ala Pro His Val Pro  
 165 170 175  
 Ser His Gly Pro His Gln Pro Arg Arg Thr Ala Pro Ala Pro Pro Trp  
 180 185 190  
 Ala Lys Met Pro Ile Gly Glu Pro Pro Pro Ala Pro Ser Arg Pro Ser  
 195 200 205  
 Ala Ser Pro Ala Glu Pro Pro Thr Arg Pro Ala Pro Gln His Ser Arg  
 210 215 220

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Arg Ala Arg Arg Gly His Arg Tyr Arg Thr Asp Thr Glu Arg Asn Val  
 225 230 235 240  
 Gly Lys Val Ala Thr Gly Pro Ser Ile Gln Ala Arg Leu Arg Ala Glu  
 245 250 255  
 Glu Ala Ser Gly Ala Gln Leu Ala Pro Gly Thr Glu Pro Ser Pro Ala  
 260 265 270  
 Pro Leu Gly Gln Pro Arg Ser Tyr Leu Ala Pro Pro Thr Arg Pro Ala  
 275 280 285  
 Pro Thr Glu Pro Pro Pro Ser Pro Ser Pro Gln Arg Asn Ser Gly Arg  
 290 295 300  
 Arg Ala Glu Arg Arg Val His Pro Asp Leu Ala Ala Gln His Ala Ala  
 305 310 315 320  
 Ala Gln Pro Asp Ser Ile Thr Ala Ala Thr Thr Gly Gly Arg Arg Arg  
 325 330 335  
 Lys Arg Ala Ala Pro Asp Leu Asp Ala Thr Gln Lys Ser Leu Arg Pro  
 340 345 350  
 Ala Ala Lys Gly Pro Lys Val Lys Lys Val Lys Pro Gln Lys Pro Lys  
 355 360 365  
 Ala Thr Lys Pro Pro Lys Val Val Ser Gln Arg Gly Trp Arg His Trp  
 370 375 380  
 Val His Ala Leu Thr Arg Ile Asn Leu Gly Leu Ser Pro Asp Glu Lys  
 385 390 395 400  
 Tyr Glu Leu Asp Leu His Ala Arg Val Arg Arg Asn Pro Arg Gly Ser  
 405 410 415  
 Tyr Gln Ile Ala Val Val Gly Leu Lys Gly Gly Ala Gly Lys Thr Thr  
 420 425 430  
 Leu Thr Ala Ala Leu Gly Ser Thr Leu Ala Gln Val Arg Ala Asp Arg  
 435 440 445  
 Ile Leu Ala Leu Asp Ala Asp Pro Gly Ala Gly Asn Leu Ala Asp Arg  
 450 455 460  
 Val Gly Arg Gln Ser Gly Ala Thr Ile Ala Asp Val Leu Ala Glu Lys  
 465 470 475 480  
 Glu Leu Ser His Tyr Asn Asp Ile Arg Ala His Thr Ser Val Asn Ala  
 485 490 495  
 Val Asn Leu Glu Val Leu Pro Ala Pro Glu Tyr Ser Ser Ala Gln Arg  
 500 505 510  
 Ala Leu Ser Asp Ala Asp Trp His Phe Ile Ala Asp Pro Ala Ser Arg  
 515 520 525  
 Phe Tyr Asn Leu Val Leu Ala Asp Cys Gly Ala Gly Phe Phe Asp Pro  
 530 535 540  
 Leu Thr Arg Gly Val Leu Ser Thr Val Ser Gly Val Val Val Val Ala  
 545 550 555 560  
 Ser Val Ser Ile Asp Gly Ala Gln Gln Ala Ser Val Ala Leu Asp Trp  
 565 570 575  
 Leu Arg Asn Asn Gly Tyr Gln Asp Leu Ala Ser Arg Ala Cys Val Val  
 580 585 590  
 Ile Asn His Ile Met Pro Gly Glu Pro Asn Val Ala Val Lys Asp Leu  
 595 600 605  
 Val Arg His Phe Glu Gln Gln Val Gln Pro Gly Arg Val Val Val Met  
 610 615 620  
 Pro Trp Asp Arg His Ile Ala Ala Gly Thr Glu Ile Ser Leu Asp Leu  
 625 630 635 640

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Leu Asp Pro Ile Tyr Lys Arg Lys Val Leu Glu Leu Ala Ala Ala Leu  
645 650 655

Ser Asp Asp Phe Glu Arg Ala Gly Arg Arg  
660 665

<210> SEQ ID NO 67  
<211> LENGTH: 511  
<212> TYPE: PRT  
<213> ORGANISM: mycobacterium tuberculosis  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Protein sequence Rv3877

<400> SEQUENCE: 67

Met Ser Ala Pro Ala Val Ala Ala Gly Pro Thr Ala Ala Gly Ala Thr  
1 5 10 15

Ala Ala Arg Pro Ala Thr Thr Arg Val Thr Ile Leu Thr Gly Arg Arg  
20 25 30

Met Thr Asp Leu Val Leu Pro Ala Ala Val Pro Met Glu Thr Tyr Ile  
35 40 45

Asp Asp Thr Val Ala Val Leu Ser Glu Val Leu Glu Asp Thr Pro Ala  
50 55 60

Asp Val Leu Gly Gly Phe Asp Phe Thr Ala Gln Gly Val Trp Ala Phe  
65 70 75 80

Ala Arg Pro Gly Ser Pro Pro Leu Lys Leu Asp Gln Ser Leu Asp Asp  
85 90 95

Ala Gly Val Val Asp Gly Ser Leu Leu Thr Leu Val Ser Val Ser Arg  
100 105 110

Thr Glu Arg Tyr Arg Pro Leu Val Glu Asp Val Ile Asp Ala Ile Ala  
115 120 125

Val Leu Asp Glu Ser Pro Glu Phe Asp Arg Thr Ala Leu Asn Arg Phe  
130 135 140

Val Gly Ala Ala Ile Pro Leu Leu Thr Ala Pro Val Ile Gly Met Ala  
145 150 155 160

Met Arg Ala Trp Trp Glu Thr Gly Arg Ser Leu Trp Trp Pro Leu Ala  
165 170 175

Ile Gly Ile Leu Gly Ile Ala Val Leu Val Gly Ser Phe Val Ala Asn  
180 185 190

Arg Phe Tyr Gln Ser Gly His Leu Ala Glu Cys Leu Leu Val Thr Thr  
195 200 205

Tyr Leu Leu Ile Ala Thr Ala Ala Ala Leu Ala Val Pro Leu Pro Arg  
210 215 220

Gly Val Asn Ser Leu Gly Ala Pro Gln Val Ala Gly Ala Ala Thr Ala  
225 230 235 240

Val Leu Phe Leu Thr Leu Met Thr Arg Gly Gly Pro Arg Lys Arg His  
245 250 255

Glu Leu Ala Ser Phe Ala Val Ile Thr Ala Ile Ala Val Ile Ala Ala  
260 265 270

Ala Ala Ala Phe Gly Tyr Gly Tyr Gln Asp Trp Val Pro Ala Gly Gly  
275 280 285

Ile Ala Phe Gly Leu Phe Ile Val Thr Asn Ala Ala Lys Leu Thr Val  
290 295 300

Ala Val Ala Arg Ile Ala Leu Pro Pro Ile Pro Val Pro Gly Glu Thr  
305 310 315 320

Val Asp Asn Glu Glu Leu Leu Asp Pro Val Ala Thr Pro Glu Ala Thr  
325 330 335



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Ser Ala Glu Lys Pro Ala Thr Glu Gln Ala Glu Pro Val His Glu Val  
 195 200 205

Thr Asn Asp Asp Gln Gly Asp Gln Gly Asp Val Gln Pro Ala Glu Val  
 210 215 220

Val Ala Ala Ala Arg Asp Glu Gly Ala Gly Ala Ser Pro Gly Gln Gln  
 225 230 235 240

Pro Gly Gly Gly Val Pro Ala Gln Ala Met Asp Thr Gly Ala Gly Ala  
 245 250 255

Arg Pro Ala Ala Ser Pro Leu Ala Ala Pro Val Asp Pro Ser Thr Pro  
 260 265 270

Ala Pro Ser Thr Thr Thr Thr Leu  
 275 280

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 69

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 729

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: PRT

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3879c - hypothetical alanine and proline rich protein

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 69

Met Ser Ile Thr Arg Pro Thr Gly Ser Tyr Ala Arg Gln Met Leu Asp  
 1 5 10 15

Pro Gly Gly Trp Val Glu Ala Asp Glu Asp Thr Phe Tyr Asp Arg Ala  
 20 25 30

Gln Glu Tyr Ser Gln Val Leu Gln Arg Val Thr Asp Val Leu Asp Thr  
 35 40 45

Cys Arg Gln Gln Lys Gly His Val Phe Glu Gly Gly Leu Trp Ser Gly  
 50 55 60

Gly Ala Ala Asn Ala Ala Asn Gly Ala Leu Gly Ala Asn Ile Asn Gln  
 65 70 75 80

Leu Met Thr Leu Gln Asp Tyr Leu Ala Thr Val Ile Thr Trp His Arg  
 85 90 95

His Ile Ala Gly Leu Ile Glu Gln Ala Lys Ser Asp Ile Gly Asn Asn  
 100 105 110

Val Asp Gly Ala Gln Arg Glu Ile Asp Ile Leu Glu Asn Asp Pro Ser  
 115 120 125

Leu Asp Ala Asp Glu Arg His Thr Ala Ile Asn Ser Leu Val Thr Ala  
 130 135 140

Thr His Gly Ala Asn Val Ser Leu Val Ala Glu Thr Ala Glu Arg Val  
 145 150 155 160

Leu Glu Ser Lys Asn Trp Lys Pro Pro Lys Asn Ala Leu Glu Asp Leu  
 165 170 175

Leu Gln Gln Lys Ser Pro Pro Pro Pro Asp Val Pro Thr Leu Val Val  
 180 185 190

Pro Ser Pro Gly Thr Pro Gly Thr Pro Gly Thr Pro Ile Thr Pro Gly  
 195 200 205

Thr Pro Ile Thr Pro Gly Thr Pro Ile Thr Pro Ile Pro Gly Ala Pro  
 210 215 220

Val Thr Pro Ile Thr Pro Thr Pro Gly Thr Pro Val Thr Pro Val Thr  
 225 230 235 240

Pro Gly Lys Pro Val Thr Pro Val Thr Pro Val Lys Pro Gly Thr Pro  
 245 250 255

Gly Glu Pro Thr Pro Ile Thr Pro Val Thr Pro Pro Val Ala Pro Ala  
 260 265 270



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Arg Val Ala Val Ala Asp Trp Leu Tyr Trp Gln Tyr Val Thr Gly Leu  
705 710 715 720

Leu Asp Arg Ala Leu Ala Ala Ala Cys  
725

<210> SEQ ID NO 70  
<211> LENGTH: 115  
<212> TYPE: PRT  
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3880c - conserved hypothetical protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 70

Val Ser Met Asp Glu Leu Asp Pro His Val Ala Arg Ala Leu Thr Leu  
1 5 10 15

Ala Ala Arg Phe Gln Ser Ala Leu Asp Gly Thr Leu Asn Gln Met Asn  
20 25 30

Asn Gly Ser Phe Arg Ala Thr Asp Glu Ala Glu Thr Val Glu Val Thr  
35 40 45

Ile Asn Gly His Gln Trp Leu Thr Gly Leu Arg Ile Glu Asp Gly Leu  
50 55 60

Leu Lys Lys Leu Gly Ala Glu Ala Val Ala Gln Arg Val Asn Glu Ala  
65 70 75 80

Leu His Asn Ala Gln Ala Ala Ala Ser Ala Tyr Asn Asp Ala Ala Gly  
85 90 95

Glu Gln Leu Thr Ala Ala Leu Ser Ala Met Ser Arg Ala Met Asn Glu  
100 105 110

Gly Met Ala  
115

<210> SEQ ID NO 71  
<211> LENGTH: 460  
<212> TYPE: PRT  
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
<220> FEATURE:  
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3881c - conserved hypothetical alanine and  
glycine rich protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 71

Met Thr Gln Ser Gln Thr Val Thr Val Asp Gln Gln Glu Ile Leu Asn  
1 5 10 15

Arg Ala Asn Glu Val Glu Ala Pro Met Ala Asp Pro Pro Thr Asp Val  
20 25 30

Pro Ile Thr Pro Cys Glu Leu Thr Ala Ala Lys Asn Ala Ala Gln Gln  
35 40 45

Leu Val Leu Ser Ala Asp Asn Met Arg Glu Tyr Leu Ala Ala Gly Ala  
50 55 60

Lys Glu Arg Gln Arg Leu Ala Thr Ser Leu Arg Asn Ala Ala Lys Ala  
65 70 75 80

Tyr Gly Glu Val Asp Glu Glu Ala Ala Thr Ala Leu Asp Asn Asp Gly  
85 90 95

Glu Gly Thr Val Gln Ala Glu Ser Ala Gly Ala Val Gly Gly Asp Ser  
100 105 110

Ser Ala Glu Leu Thr Asp Thr Pro Arg Val Ala Thr Ala Gly Glu Pro  
115 120 125

Asn Phe Met Asp Leu Lys Glu Ala Ala Arg Lys Leu Glu Thr Gly Asp  
130 135 140

Gln Gly Ala Ser Leu Ala His Phe Ala Asp Gly Trp Asn Thr Phe Asn  
145 150 155 160

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Leu Thr Leu Gln Gly Asp Val Lys Arg Phe Arg Gly Phe Asp Asn Trp  
 165 170 175  
 Glu Gly Asp Ala Ala Thr Ala Cys Glu Ala Ser Leu Asp Gln Gln Arg  
 180 185 190  
 Gln Trp Ile Leu His Met Ala Lys Leu Ser Ala Ala Met Ala Lys Gln  
 195 200 205  
 Ala Gln Tyr Val Ala Gln Leu His Val Trp Ala Arg Arg Glu His Pro  
 210 215 220  
 Thr Tyr Glu Asp Ile Val Gly Leu Glu Arg Leu Tyr Ala Glu Asn Pro  
 225 230 235 240  
 Ser Ala Arg Asp Gln Ile Leu Pro Val Tyr Ala Glu Tyr Gln Gln Arg  
 245 250 255  
 Ser Glu Lys Val Leu Thr Glu Tyr Asn Asn Lys Ala Ala Leu Glu Pro  
 260 265 270  
 Val Asn Pro Pro Lys Pro Pro Pro Ala Ile Lys Ile Asp Pro Pro Pro  
 275 280 285  
 Pro Pro Gln Glu Gln Gly Leu Ile Pro Gly Phe Leu Met Pro Pro Ser  
 290 295 300  
 Asp Gly Ser Gly Val Thr Pro Gly Thr Gly Met Pro Ala Ala Pro Met  
 305 310 315 320  
 Val Pro Pro Thr Gly Ser Pro Gly Gly Gly Leu Pro Ala Asp Thr Ala  
 325 330 335  
 Ala Gln Leu Thr Ser Ala Gly Arg Glu Ala Ala Ala Leu Ser Gly Asp  
 340 345 350  
 Val Ala Val Lys Ala Ala Ser Leu Gly Gly Gly Gly Gly Gly Gly Val  
 355 360 365  
 Pro Ser Ala Pro Leu Gly Ser Ala Ile Gly Gly Ala Glu Ser Val Arg  
 370 375 380  
 Pro Ala Gly Ala Gly Asp Ile Ala Gly Leu Gly Gln Gly Arg Ala Gly  
 385 390 395 400  
 Gly Gly Ala Ala Leu Gly Gly Gly Gly Met Gly Met Pro Met Gly Ala  
 405 410 415  
 Ala His Gln Gly Gln Gly Gly Ala Lys Ser Lys Gly Ser Gln Gln Glu  
 420 425 430  
 Asp Glu Ala Leu Tyr Thr Glu Asp Arg Ala Trp Thr Glu Ala Val Ile  
 435 440 445  
 Gly Asn Arg Arg Arg Gln Asp Ser Lys Glu Ser Lys  
 450 455 460

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 72

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 462

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: PRT

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3882c - possible conserved membrane protein

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 72

Met Arg Asn Pro Leu Gly Leu Arg Phe Ser Thr Gly His Ala Leu Leu  
 1 5 10 15  
 Ala Ser Ala Leu Ala Pro Pro Cys Ile Ile Ala Phe Leu Glu Thr Arg  
 20 25 30  
 Tyr Trp Trp Ala Gly Ile Ala Leu Ala Ser Leu Gly Val Ile Val Ala  
 35 40 45  
 Thr Val Thr Phe Tyr Gly Arg Arg Ile Thr Gly Trp Val Ala Ala Val  
 50 55 60

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Tyr Ala Trp Leu Arg Arg Arg Arg Arg Pro Pro Asp Ser Ser Ser Glu  
 65 70 75 80  
 Pro Val Val Gly Ala Thr Val Lys Pro Gly Asp His Val Ala Val Arg  
 85 90 95  
 Trp Gln Gly Glu Phe Leu Val Ala Val Ile Glu Leu Ile Pro Arg Pro  
 100 105 110  
 Phe Thr Pro Thr Val Ile Val Asp Gly Gln Ala His Thr Asp Asp Met  
 115 120 125  
 Leu Asp Thr Gly Leu Val Glu Glu Leu Leu Ser Val His Cys Pro Asp  
 130 135 140  
 Leu Glu Ala Asp Ile Val Ser Ala Gly Tyr Arg Val Gly Asn Thr Ala  
 145 150 155 160  
 Ala Pro Asp Val Val Ser Leu Tyr Gln Gln Val Ile Gly Thr Asp Pro  
 165 170 175  
 Ala Pro Ala Asn Arg Arg Thr Trp Ile Val Leu Arg Ala Asp Pro Glu  
 180 185 190  
 Arg Thr Arg Lys Ser Ala Gln Arg Arg Asp Glu Gly Val Ala Gly Leu  
 195 200 205  
 Ala Arg Tyr Leu Val Ala Ser Ala Thr Arg Ile Ala Asp Arg Leu Ala  
 210 215 220  
 Ser His Gly Val Asp Ala Val Cys Gly Arg Ser Phe Asp Asp Tyr Asp  
 225 230 235 240  
 His Ala Thr Asp Ile Gly Phe Val Arg Glu Lys Trp Ser Met Ile Lys  
 245 250 255  
 Gly Arg Asp Ala Tyr Thr Ala Ala Tyr Ala Ala Pro Gly Gly Pro Asp  
 260 265 270  
 Val Trp Trp Ser Ala Arg Ala Asp His Thr Ile Thr Arg Val Arg Val  
 275 280 285  
 Ala Pro Gly Met Ala Pro Gln Ser Thr Val Leu Leu Thr Thr Ala Asp  
 290 295 300  
 Lys Pro Lys Thr Pro Arg Gly Phe Ala Arg Leu Phe Gly Gly Gln Arg  
 305 310 315 320  
 Pro Ala Leu Gln Gly Gln His Leu Val Ala Asn Arg His Cys Gln Leu  
 325 330 335  
 Pro Ile Gly Ser Ala Gly Val Leu Val Gly Glu Thr Val Asn Arg Cys  
 340 345 350  
 Pro Val Tyr Met Pro Phe Asp Asp Val Asp Ile Ala Leu Asn Leu Gly  
 355 360 365  
 Asp Ala Gln Thr Phe Thr Gln Phe Val Val Arg Ala Ala Ala Ala Gly  
 370 375 380  
 Ala Met Val Thr Val Gly Pro Gln Phe Glu Glu Phe Ala Arg Leu Ile  
 385 390 395 400  
 Gly Ala His Ile Gly Gln Glu Val Lys Val Ala Trp Pro Asn Ala Thr  
 405 410 415  
 Thr Tyr Leu Gly Pro His Pro Gly Ile Asp Arg Val Ile Leu Arg His  
 420 425 430  
 Asn Val Ile Gly Thr Pro Arg His Arg Gln Leu Pro Ile Arg Arg Val  
 435 440 445  
 Ser Pro Pro Glu Glu Ser Arg Tyr Gln Met Ala Leu Pro Lys  
 450 455 460

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 73

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 446

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: PRT

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

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&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3883c - possible secreted protease

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 73

Val His Arg Ile Phe Leu Ile Thr Val Ala Leu Ala Leu Leu Thr Ala  
 1 5 10 15  
 Ser Pro Ala Ser Ala Ile Thr Pro Pro Ile Asp Pro Gly Ala Leu  
 20 25 30  
 Pro Pro Asp Val Thr Gly Pro Asp Gln Pro Thr Glu Gln Arg Val Leu  
 35 40 45  
 Cys Ala Ser Pro Thr Thr Leu Pro Gly Ser Gly Phe His Asp Pro Pro  
 50 55 60  
 Trp Ser Asn Thr Tyr Leu Gly Val Ala Asp Ala His Lys Phe Ala Thr  
 65 70 75 80  
 Gly Ala Gly Val Thr Val Ala Val Ile Asp Thr Gly Val Asp Ala Ser  
 85 90 95  
 Pro Arg Val Pro Ala Glu Pro Gly Gly Asp Phe Val Asp Gln Ala Gly  
 100 105 110  
 Asn Gly Leu Ser Asp Cys Asp Ala His Gly Thr Leu Thr Ala Ser Ile  
 115 120 125  
 Ile Ala Gly Arg Pro Ala Pro Thr Asp Gly Phe Val Gly Val Ala Pro  
 130 135 140  
 Asp Ala Arg Leu Leu Ser Leu Arg Gln Thr Ser Glu Ala Phe Glu Pro  
 145 150 155 160  
 Val Gly Ser Gln Ala Asn Pro Asn Asp Pro Asn Ala Thr Pro Ala Ala  
 165 170 175  
 Gly Ser Ile Arg Ser Leu Ala Arg Ala Val Val His Ala Ala Asn Leu  
 180 185 190  
 Gly Val Gly Val Ile Asn Ile Ser Glu Ala Ala Cys Tyr Lys Val Ser  
 195 200 205  
 Arg Pro Ile Asp Glu Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ser Ile Asp Tyr Ala Val  
 210 215 220  
 Asn Val Lys Gly Val Val Val Val Val Ala Ala Gly Asn Thr Gly Gly  
 225 230 235 240  
 Asp Cys Val Gln Asn Pro Ala Pro Asp Pro Ser Thr Pro Gly Asp Pro  
 245 250 255  
 Arg Gly Trp Asn Asn Val Gln Thr Val Val Thr Pro Ala Trp Tyr Ala  
 260 265 270  
 Pro Leu Val Leu Ser Val Gly Gly Ile Gly Gln Thr Gly Met Pro Ser  
 275 280 285  
 Ser Phe Ser Met His Gly Pro Trp Val Asp Val Ala Ala Pro Ala Glu  
 290 295 300  
 Asn Ile Val Ala Leu Gly Asp Thr Gly Glu Pro Val Asn Ala Leu Gln  
 305 310 315 320  
 Gly Arg Glu Gly Pro Val Pro Ile Ala Gly Thr Ser Phe Ala Ala Ala  
 325 330 335  
 Tyr Val Ser Gly Leu Ala Ala Leu Leu Arg Gln Arg Phe Pro Asp Leu  
 340 345 350  
 Thr Pro Ala Gln Ile Ile His Arg Ile Thr Ala Thr Ala Arg His Pro  
 355 360 365  
 Gly Gly Gly Val Asp Asp Leu Val Gly Ala Gly Val Ile Asp Ala Val  
 370 375 380  
 Ala Ala Leu Thr Trp Asp Ile Pro Pro Gly Pro Ala Ser Ala Pro Tyr  
 385 390 395 400

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Asn Val Arg Arg Leu Pro Pro Pro Val Val Glu Pro Gly Pro Asp Arg
      405                                410                    415

Arg Pro Ile Thr Ala Val Ala Leu Val Ala Val Gly Leu Thr Leu Ala
      420                                425                    430

Leu Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Ala Arg Arg Ala Leu Ser Arg Arg
      435                                440                    445

<210> SEQ ID NO 74
<211> LENGTH: 619
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3884c - probable CBXX/CFQX family protein

<400> SEQUENCE: 74

Met Ser Arg Met Val Asp Thr Met Gly Asp Leu Leu Thr Ala Arg Arg
 1          5          10          15

His Phe Asp Arg Ala Met Thr Ile Lys Asn Gly Gln Gly Cys Val Ala
 20          25          30

Ala Leu Pro Glu Phe Val Ala Ala Thr Glu Ala Asp Pro Ser Met Ala
 35          40          45

Asp Ala Trp Leu Gly Arg Ile Ala Cys Gly Asp Arg Asp Leu Ala Ser
 50          55          60

Leu Lys Gln Leu Asn Ala His Ser Glu Trp Leu His Arg Glu Thr Thr
 65          70          75          80

Arg Ile Gly Arg Thr Leu Ala Ala Glu Val Gln Leu Gly Pro Ser Ile
 85          90          95

Gly Ile Thr Val Thr Asp Ala Ser Gln Val Gly Leu Ala Leu Ser Ser
100          105          110

Ala Leu Thr Ile Ala Gly Glu Tyr Ala Lys Ala Asp Ala Leu Leu Ala
115          120          125

Asn Arg Glu Leu Leu Asp Ser Trp Arg Asn Tyr Gln Trp His Gln Leu
130          135          140

Ala Arg Ala Phe Leu Met Tyr Val Thr Gln Arg Trp Pro Asp Val Leu
145          150          155          160

Ser Thr Ala Ala Glu Asp Leu Pro Pro Gln Ala Ile Val Met Pro Ala
165          170          175

Val Thr Ala Ser Ile Cys Ala Leu Ala Ala His Ala Ala Ala His Leu
180          185          190

Gly Gln Gly Arg Val Ala Leu Asp Trp Leu Asp Arg Val Asp Val Ile
195          200          205

Gly His Ser Arg Ser Ser Glu Arg Phe Gly Ala Asp Val Leu Thr Ala
210          215          220

Ala Ile Gly Pro Ala Asp Ile Pro Leu Leu Val Ala Asp Leu Ala Tyr
225          230          235          240

Val Arg Gly Met Val Tyr Arg Gln Leu His Glu Glu Asp Lys Ala Gln
245          250          255

Ile Trp Leu Ser Lys Ala Thr Ile Asn Gly Val Leu Thr Asp Ala Ala
260          265          270

Lys Glu Ala Leu Ala Asp Pro Asn Leu Arg Leu Ile Val Thr Asp Glu
275          280          285

Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Arg Ser Asp Arg Trp Asp Ala Ser Thr Ala Lys
290          295          300

Ser Arg Asp Gln Leu Asp Asp Asp Asn Ala Ala Gln Arg Arg Gly Glu
305          310          315          320

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Leu Leu Ala Glu Gly Arg Glu Leu Leu Ala Lys Gln Val Gly Leu Ala  
 325 330 335  
 Ala Val Lys Gln Ala Val Ser Ala Leu Glu Asp Gln Leu Glu Val Arg  
 340 345 350  
 Met Met Arg Leu Glu His Gly Leu Pro Val Glu Gly Gln Thr Asn His  
 355 360 365  
 Met Leu Leu Val Gly Pro Pro Gly Thr Gly Lys Thr Thr Thr Ala Glu  
 370 375 380  
 Ala Leu Gly Lys Ile Tyr Ala Gly Met Gly Ile Val Arg His Pro Glu  
 385 390 395 400  
 Ile Arg Glu Val Arg Arg Ser Asp Phe Cys Gly His Tyr Ile Gly Glu  
 405 410 415  
 Ser Gly Pro Lys Thr Asn Glu Leu Ile Glu Lys Ser Leu Gly Arg Ile  
 420 425 430  
 Ile Phe Met Asp Glu Phe Tyr Ser Leu Ile Glu Arg His Gln Asp Gly  
 435 440 445  
 Thr Pro Asp Met Ile Gly Met Glu Ala Val Asn Gln Leu Leu Val Gln  
 450 455 460  
 Leu Glu Thr His Arg Phe Asp Phe Cys Phe Ile Gly Ala Gly Tyr Glu  
 465 470 475 480  
 Asp Gln Val Asp Glu Phe Leu Thr Val Asn Pro Gly Leu Ala Gly Arg  
 485 490 495  
 Phe Asn Arg Lys Leu Arg Phe Glu Ser Tyr Ser Pro Val Glu Ile Val  
 500 505 510  
 Glu Ile Gly His Arg Tyr Ala Thr Pro Arg Ala Ser Gln Leu Asp Asp  
 515 520 525  
 Ala Ala Arg Glu Val Phe Leu Asp Ala Val Thr Thr Ile Arg Asn Tyr  
 530 535 540  
 Thr Thr Pro Ser Gly Gln His Gly Ile Asp Ala Met Gln Asn Gly Arg  
 545 550 555 560  
 Phe Ala Arg Asn Val Ile Glu Arg Ala Glu Gly Phe Arg Asp Thr Arg  
 565 570 575  
 Val Val Ala Gln Lys Arg Ala Gly Gln Pro Val Ser Val Gln Asp Leu  
 580 585 590  
 Gln Ile Ile Thr Ala Thr Asp Ile Asp Ala Ala Ile Arg Ser Val Cys  
 595 600 605  
 Ser Asp Asn Arg Asp Met Ala Ala Ile Val Trp  
 610 615

&lt;210&gt; SEQ ID NO 75

&lt;211&gt; LENGTH: 537

&lt;212&gt; TYPE: PRT

&lt;213&gt; ORGANISM: Mycobacterium tuberculosis

&lt;220&gt; FEATURE:

&lt;223&gt; OTHER INFORMATION: Rv3885c - possible conserved membrane protein

&lt;400&gt; SEQUENCE: 75

Leu Thr Ser Lys Leu Thr Gly Phe Ser Pro Arg Ser Ala Arg Arg Val  
 1 5 10 15  
 Ala Gly Val Trp Thr Val Phe Val Leu Ala Ser Ala Gly Trp Ala Leu  
 20 25 30  
 Gly Gly Gln Leu Gly Ala Val Met Ala Val Val Val Gly Val Ala Leu  
 35 40 45  
 Val Phe Val Gln Trp Trp Gly Gln Pro Ala Trp Ser Trp Ala Val Leu  
 50 55 60

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Gly Leu Arg Gly Arg Arg Pro Val Lys Trp Asn Asp Pro Ile Thr Leu  
 65 70 75 80  
 Ala Asn Asn Arg Ser Gly Gly Gly Val Arg Val Gln Asp Gly Val Ala  
 85 90 95  
 Val Val Ala Val Gln Leu Leu Gly Arg Ala His Arg Ala Thr Thr Val  
 100 105 110  
 Thr Gly Ser Val Thr Val Glu Ser Asp Asn Val Ile Asp Val Val Glu  
 115 120 125  
 Leu Ala Pro Leu Leu Arg His Pro Leu Asp Leu Glu Leu Asp Ser Ile  
 130 135 140  
 Ser Val Val Thr Phe Gly Ser Arg Thr Gly Thr Val Gly Asp Tyr Pro  
 145 150 155 160  
 Arg Val Tyr Asp Ala Glu Ile Gly Thr Pro Pro Tyr Ala Gly Arg Arg  
 165 170 175  
 Glu Thr Trp Leu Ile Met Arg Leu Pro Val Ile Gly Asn Thr Gln Ala  
 180 185 190  
 Leu Arg Trp Arg Thr Ser Val Gly Ala Ala Ala Ile Ser Val Ala Gln  
 195 200 205  
 Arg Val Ala Ser Ser Leu Arg Cys Gln Gly Leu Arg Ala Lys Leu Ala  
 210 215 220  
 Thr Ala Thr Asp Leu Ala Glu Leu Asp Arg Arg Leu Gly Ser Asp Ala  
 225 230 235 240  
 Val Ala Gly Ser Ala Gln Arg Trp Lys Ala Ile Arg Gly Glu Ala Gly  
 245 250 255  
 Trp Met Thr Thr Tyr Ala Tyr Pro Ala Glu Ala Ile Ser Ser Arg Val  
 260 265 270  
 Leu Ser Gln Ala Trp Thr Leu Arg Ala Asp Glu Val Ile Gln Asn Val  
 275 280 285  
 Thr Val Tyr Pro Asp Ala Thr Cys Thr Ala Thr Ile Thr Val Arg Thr  
 290 295 300  
 Pro Thr Pro Ala Pro Thr Pro Pro Ser Val Ile Leu Arg Arg Leu Asn  
 305 310 315 320  
 Gly Glu Gln Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Asn Met Cys Gly Pro Arg Pro  
 325 330 335  
 His Leu Arg Gly Gln Arg Arg Cys Pro Leu Pro Ala Gln Leu Val Thr  
 340 345 350  
 Glu Ile Gly Pro Ser Gly Val Leu Ile Gly Lys Leu Ser Asn Gly Asp  
 355 360 365  
 Arg Leu Met Ile Pro Val Thr Asp Ala Gly Glu Leu Ser Arg Val Phe  
 370 375 380  
 Val Ala Ala Asp Asp Thr Ile Ala Lys Arg Ile Val Ile Arg Val Val  
 385 390 395 400  
 Gly Ala Gly Glu Arg Val Cys Val His Thr Arg Asp Gln Glu Arg Trp  
 405 410 415  
 Ala Ser Val Arg Met Pro Gln Leu Ser Ile Val Gly Thr Pro Arg Pro  
 420 425 430  
 Ala Pro Arg Thr Thr Val Gly Val Val Glu Tyr Val Arg Arg Arg Lys  
 435 440 445  
 Asn Gly Asp Asp Gly Lys Ser Glu Gly Ser Gly Val Asp Val Ala Ile  
 450 455 460  
 Ser Pro Thr Pro Arg Pro Ala Ser Val Ile Thr Ile Ala Arg Pro Gly  
 465 470 475 480  
 Thr Ser Leu Ser Glu Ser Asp Arg His Gly Phe Glu Val Thr Ile Glu  
 485 490 495

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Gln	Ile	Asp	Arg	Ala	Thr	Val	Lys	Val	Gly	Ala	Ala	Gly	Gln	Asn	Trp
			500					505					510		
Leu	Val	Glu	Met	Glu	Met	Phe	Arg	Ala	Glu	Asn	Arg	Tyr	Val	Ser	Leu
		515					520					525			
Glu	Pro	Val	Thr	Met	Ser	Ile	Gly	Arg							
		530					535								

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The invention claimed is:

1. A strain of *M. microti*, wherein said strain has integrated all or part of the fragment, named RD1-2F9, of 31808 pb of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), designated as SEQ ID NO: 1 and which is responsible for enhanced immunogenicity and increased persistence of BCG to the tubercle bacilli.

2. A strain of *M. microti* according to claim 1, wherein said strain has integrated all or part of the fragment of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*) designated as SEQ ID NO: 2 responsible for enhanced immunogenicity and increased persistence of BCG to the tubercle bacilli.

3. A strain of *M. microti* according to claim 1, wherein said strain has integrated all or part of the fragment of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*) designated as SEQ ID NO: 3 responsible for enhanced immunogenicity and increased persistence of BCG to the tubercle bacilli.

4. A strain according to claim 1, which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least one, two, three or more gene(s) selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19), Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28).

5. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least one, two, three or more gene(s) selected from Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20).

6. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least one; two, three or more gene(s) selected from Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873

(SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10) and Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6).

7. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least four genes selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE), Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19), Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28), provided that it comprises Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10) and/or Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6).

8. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19).

9. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20).

10. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises at least Rv3871 (SEQ ID No 14), Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6), Rv3876 (SEQ ID No 19) and Rv3877 (SEQ ID No 20).

11. A strain according to claim 8 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which further comprises Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10).

12. A strain according to claim 8 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which further comprises Rv3872 (SEQ ID No 15, mycobacterial PE).

13. A strain according to claim 8 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which further comprises Rv3873 (SEQ ID No 16, PPE).

14. A strain according to claim 8 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which further comprises at least one, two, three or four gene(s) selected from Rv3861 (SEQ ID No 4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID No 5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID No 6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID No 7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID No 8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID No 9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID No 10), Rv3868 (SEQ ID No 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID No 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID No 13), Rv3878 (SEQ ID No 21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID No 22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID No 24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID No 25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID No 26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID No 27) and Rv3885 (SEQ ID No 28).

15. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6).

16. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10).

17. A strain according to claim 1 which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), which comprises both Rv3875 (SEQ ID No 18, ESAT-6) and Rv3874 (SEQ ID No 17, CFP-10).

18. A strain according to claim 4, wherein the coding sequence of the integrated gene is in frame with its natural promoter or with an exogenous promoter, such as a promoter capable of directing high level of expression of said coding sequence.

19. A strain according to claim 4, wherein the said integrated gene is mutated so as to maintain the improved immunogenicity while decreasing the virulence of the strain.

20. A strain according to claim 18, wherein said strain only carries parts of the genes coding for ESAT-6 or CFP-10 in a mycobacterial expression vector under the control of a promoter, more particularly an hsp60 promoter.

21. A strain according to claim 18, wherein said strain carries at least one portion of the esat-6 gene that codes for immunogenic 20-mer peptides of ESAT-6 active as T-cell epitopes.

22. A strain according to claim 19, wherein the esat-6 encoding gene is altered by directed mutagenesis in a way that most of the immunogenic peptides of ESAT-6 remain intact, but the biological functionality of ESAT-6 is lost.

23. A strain according to claim 19, wherein the CFP-10 encoding gene is altered by directed mutagenesis in a way that most of the immunogenic peptides of CFP-10 remain intact, but the biological functionality of CFP-10 is lost.

24. *M. microti*::RD1 strain which has integrated the insert of the cosmid RD1-AP34 which corresponds to the 3909 bp fragment of the *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genome from region 4350459 bp to 4354367 bp of SEQ ID No: 3.

25. *M. microti*::RD1 strain which has integrated the insert of the cosmid RD1-2F9 (~32 kb) of the region of the *M. tuberculosis* genome AL123456 from ca 4337 kb to ca 4369 kb of SEQ ID No: 1.

26. A method for preparing and selecting *M. microti* strains defined in any one of claims 1 to 25 comprising a step consisting of modifying said strains by insertion, deletion or mutation in the integrated portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M.*

*bovis*, *M. canettii*), more particularly in the esat-6 or CFP-10 gene, said method leading to strains that are less virulent for immuno-depressed individuals.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a strain according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 27 containing suitable pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers comprising excipients and auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the living vaccine into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically.

29. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 27 which is suitable for intravenous or subcutaneous administration.

30. A vaccine comprising a strain according to claim 1 and a suitable carrier.

31. A product comprising a strain according to claim 1 and at least one protein selected from ESAT-6 and CFP-10 or epitope of ESAT-6 and CFP-10 for a separate, simultaneous or sequential use for treating tuberculosis.

32. A strain of *M. microti*, wherein said strain has integrated the DNA fragment RD1-2F9, which comprises 31808 bp of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), and having SEQ ID NO: 1, and which is responsible for enhanced immunogenicity and increased persistence of BCG to the tubercule bacilli.

33. A transformed *M. microti* strain, wherein the strain has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), wherein the integrated DNA comprises the genes Rv3874 (SEQ ID NO: 17, CFP-10), Rv3875 (SEQ ID NO: 18, ESAT-6), Rv3868 (SEQ ID NO: 11), Rv3869 (SEQ ID NO: 12), Rv3870 (SEQ ID NO: 13), Rv3871 (SEQ ID NO: 14), Rv3876 (SEQ ID NO: 19), and Rv3877 (SEQ ID NO: 20).

34. A strain according to claim 33, wherein said strain has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), wherein the integrated DNA further comprises at least nine genes selected from the group consisting of Rv3861 (SEQ ID NO:4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID NO:5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID NO:6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID NO:7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID NO:8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID NO:9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID NO:10), Rv3872 (SEQ ID NO:15, mycobacterial PE), Rv3873 (SEQ ID NO:16, PPE), Rv3878 (SEQ ID NO:21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID NO:22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID NO:23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID NO:24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID NO:25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID NO:26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID NO:27), and Rv3885 (SEQ ID NO:28).

35. A strain according to claim 33, wherein said strain has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), wherein the integrated DNA further comprises at least the gene Rv3867 (SEQ ID NO:10), combined with at least one gene selected from the group consisting of: Rv3872 (SEQ ID NO:15, mycobacterial PE); and Rv3873 (SEQ ID NO:16, PPE).

36. A strain according to claim 33, wherein said strain has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), wherein the integrated DNA further comprises the gene Rv3872 (SEQ ID NO: 15, mycobacterial PE).

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37. A strain according to claim 36, wherein said strain has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), wherein the integrated DNA further comprises the gene Rv3873 (SEQ ID NO:16, PPE).

38. A strain according to claim 37, wherein said strain has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), wherein the integrated DNA further comprises at least one gene selected from the group consisting of: Rv3861 (SEQ ID NO:4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID NO:5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID NO:6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID NO:7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID NO:8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID NO:9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID NO: 10), Rv3878 (SEQ ID NO:21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID NO:22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID NO:23), 35 Rv3881 (SEQ ID NO:24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID NO:25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID NO:26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID NO:27), and Rv3885 (SEQ ID NO:28).

39. A strain according to claim 33, wherein the coding sequence of the integrated gene is in frame with its natural promoter or with an exogenous promoter, such as a promoter capable of directing a high level of expression of said coding sequence.

40. A strain according to claim 39, wherein said strain carries genes coding for ESAT-6 or CFP-10 in a mycobacterial expression vector under the control of a promoter, more particularly an hsp60 promoter.

41. A strain according to claim 39, wherein the coding sequence of the integrated gene codes for immunogenic polymer peptides of ESAT 6 which are active as T-cell epitopes.

42. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a strain according to claim 33 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

43. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 42, wherein the pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier comprises excipients and auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the living vaccine into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically.

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44. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 42, which is suitable for oral, intravenous, or subcutaneous administration.

45. A vaccine comprising a strain according to claim 33 and a suitable carrier.

46. A product comprising a strain according to claim 33 and at least one protein selected from ESAT-6 and CFP-10 for a separate, simultaneous, or sequential use for treating tuberculosis.

47. A strain according to claim 33, which has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), wherein the integrated DNA further comprises at least one gene selected from the group consisting of: Rv3878 (SEQ ID NO:21), Rv3879 (SEQ ID NO:22), Rv3880 (SEQ ID NO:23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID NO:24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID NO:25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID NO:26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID NO:27), and Rv3885 (SEQ ID NO:28), in combination with at least one gene selected from the group consisting of: Rv3872 (SEQ ID NO:15, mycobacterial PE) and Rv3873 (SEQ ID NO:16, PPE).

48. A strain according to claim 33, wherein the strain has integrated a portion of DNA originating from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or any virulent member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canettii*), wherein the integrated DNA further comprises at least one gene selected from the group consisting of: Rv3861 (SEQ ID NO:4), Rv3862 (SEQ ID NO:5), Rv3863 (SEQ ID NO:6), Rv3864 (SEQ ID NO:7), Rv3865 (SEQ ID NO:8), Rv3866 (SEQ ID NO:9), Rv3867 (SEQ ID NO: 10), Rv3880 (SEQ ID NO:23), Rv3881 (SEQ ID NO:24), Rv3882 (SEQ ID NO:25), Rv3883 (SEQ ID NO:26), Rv3884 (SEQ ID NO:27), and Rv3885 (SEQ ID NO:28), in combination with at least one gene selected from the group consisting of: Rv3872 (SEQ ID NO:15, mycobacterial PE) and Rv3873 (SEQ ID NO:16, PPE).

\* \* \* \* \*

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 8,747,866 B2  
APPLICATION NO. : 12/923432  
DATED : June 10, 2014  
INVENTOR(S) : Stewart Cole et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the Title Page, Item (75), in the “Inventors”, line 1, “**Stewart Cole**, Clamart (CH);” should read --**Stewart Cole**, Ecublens (CH);--.

On the Title Page, after Item (62), the “**Related U.S. Application Data**”, and before Item (51), the “**Int. Cl.**” data, insert the following missing priority data:

--(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Apr. 5, 2002 (EP) ..... 02290864--.

In claim 6, column 175, line 66, “one; two,” should read --one, two,--.

In claim 7, column 176, line 27, “Rv3880 (SEQ No 23),” should read --Rv3880 (SEQ ID No 23),--.

In claim 21, column 177, line 43, “esat-6” should read --ESAT-6--.

In claim 22, column 177, line 46, “esat-6” should read --ESAT-6--.

In claim 24, column 177, line 55, “3909 by” should read --3909 bp--.

In claim 24, column 177, line 57, “4350459 by” should read --4350459 bp--.

In claim 26, column 178, line 1, “esat-6” should read --ESAT-6--.

In claim 34, column 178, lines 50-51, “Rv3882 (SEQ 50 ID NO:25),” should read --Rv3882 (SEQ ID NO:25),--.

In claim 38, column 179, line 17, before “Rv3881 (SEQ ID NO:24),” delete “35”.

In claim 41, column 179, line 31, “ESAT 6” should read --ESAT-6--.

Signed and Sealed this  
Twenty-third Day of August, 2016



Michelle K. Lee  
*Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*